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By Mary McLeod Bethune

APRIL 1949 30c



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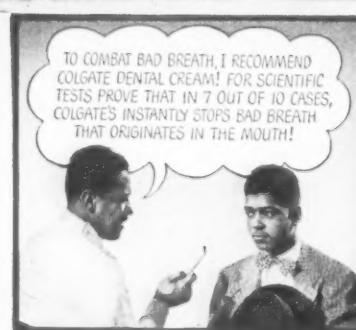
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# Don't Parents Ever Grow Up?



## LETTERS AND PICTURES

### 'TOMS' IN THE NORTH TOO

I am a loyal reader of EBONY and enjoy reading your editorials very much. However, in your January issue there is one sentence I would like to comment on. It comes under the topic, "Humor As a Survival Trait." That sentence reads as follows: "Some Negroes still 'put it on' before whites in the South . . ." Why Negroes in the South?

During my more than three years in the Army, I've had the opportunity to meet Negroes from all parts of the country and I've found that some of our biggest "Uncle Toms" were from the "Windy City" and New York City. Now, don't tell me they were immigrants from Dixie because they were native Northerners. In your editorial why not say *some* Negroes and not Southern Negroes?

BENJAMIN POWERS, JR.  
Charleston, S. C.

Your excellent editorial in the February, 1949 issue of EBONY, "Freedom Versus Pork Chops," was one of the finest examples of the insight and sincerity that typifies EBONY's writings. I found the editorial singularly significant—having been an "American refugee" myself for a period of twenty-two months.

Further, it was a great surprise to see one of my best friends, Pfc. Henderson Burton of Detroit, seated across the table from Mr. Briggs who I knew casually while in Paris. Burton and I were inseparable companions during the War, being two of the ten Negroes attached to the 787th Military Police Battalion in Paris. Often have we sat, sipping an aperitif at some sidewalk cafe similar to the one pictured next to your editorial page. Naturally, reminiscing over my days in Paris (the happiest of my life) brought forth a flood of memories, however hard I tried to repress them.

For example, I remember a day in the Spring of 1946—a typical Parisian Spring day. That was the day I decided, not too wisely I'm afraid, that I should return to the States. Burton and I had discussed the matter for some time since we both were eligible for discharge from the service. I wanted to continue my education and so did Burton. He argued that we could remain in Paris, go to the Sorbonne, and have our cake and eat it too. However, my knowledge of French was not proficient enough for me to derive full benefit from a French language pursuit of mathematics, my chosen field. The freedoms, the happiness, the "belonging" we had found in Paris was unlike anything either of us had ever experienced before, and it was evident that such experiences were common only to the greatest city in the world.

At any rate, I returned to the States, was discharged, entered the University

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## LETTERS

*Continued*

of Chicago, was married, became a father, left school (for obvious reasons) and became mired in the monotonously routine existence of frustration. A life that is brightened only by a wonderful wife and daughter, devoid of personal freedom, inspiration, and the indefinable quality of belonging; a life where happiness is found only in those two who comprise my family; a life of bitterness and hatred, where money is the prime ingredient; a life where beauty and culture and trees and people are insignificant blots on the landscape; a life where freedom and individuality are of no consequence—this is my inheritance from the government of these United States.

In conclusion, I am reminded of the soldier, and a white one at that, who, when asked why he chose to remain in Paris, said: "Why should I leave Heaven in search of the Lord?"

ARTHUR B. CUMMINGS  
Chicago, Ill.

### KINSEY REPORT

In reference to letters written by three of your more reverend readers, I would like to ask just what is the matter with the "Kinsey Report?"

I have been under the impression that the idea was to inform the younger generation of the problems of sex and the ways to control and handle it.

If all people believed as these certain ones do, there would be nothing for a young person to do but sit back and wait for what ever is to come about. There are certain things that must be brought to life and let the public know all the facts.

Not so many years ago, cancer was another "hush-hush" matter. After it was brought to light, people took it as something that had to be adjusted. It was after this was brought out into the open that the many cures were found.

It seems that if this worked for cancer, people could be taught about other things.

It's really a shame that some folks are narrow-minded enough to even think anything about stopping the "Report."

Please don't believe that the rest of your readers are on this one-track line.

BILL ROGERS

Montana State University  
Missoula, Mont.

The cries of horror raised by Messrs. Seon and Taylor and Dr. Turner (D.D. not M.D., I hope) prompt me to comment, albeit somewhat belatedly, on your December article, "What I Told Kinsey About My Sex Life."

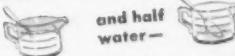
I found the article to be in good taste in every respect. And, of far greater importance, it did not distort any aspect of Kinsey's findings—more than can be said for a piece on the same subject published by another national magazine, to which EBONY has not infrequently been compared.

America, unfortunately, is overrun with people who not only take it upon themselves to tell others in what schools they may educate their children, in what restaurants they may eat, where they may sleep and entertain them-

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LETTERS Continued

selves, but who also would dictate whom one may love, how one may love, how often one may love. (I use the term "love" broadly and euphemistically.)

Fortunately, I believe, an increasing number of people are beginning to realize that the complexion of one's seatmate on a train or of one's neighbors is a matter of complete indifference. Perhaps it is also time for us to grow up and realize that an individual's sex life is—or should be—a matter of similar indifference, so long as no violence is involved and mutual consent has been secured.

May I be so presumptuous as to suggest to those of your readers who were horrified by Mary X's commendable frankness that they read *The Ethics of Sexual Acts* by René Guyon? Guyon hits hard at the puritanical bigots, who *pervert* sex into something degrading and unlovely—a thing that, to use Mr. Seon's words, "we don't mention." Shades of Victoria.

Guyon makes the point, and it is one worth considering, that sexual pleasure is a legitimate end in itself, that it is not "merely ancillary to reproduction," and that the objects of sexual attraction are as varied as those that satisfy the sense of taste. Viewed in this light, sex in all its ramifications becomes a legitimate pleasure to be indulged in for its own satisfaction. Kinsey, statistically, says the same thing.

Messrs. Seon and Taylor and Dr. Turner may observe any sexual taboos they care to place upon themselves, but let them not interfere with those who have rejected them.

VICTOR GRANT BACKUS  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

I am a regular reader of EBONY and think it is the best magazine published. However, you should print more about sex education for young readers.

OBIE L. HALYARD  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

The magnanimous expurgating Greek Letter gyro-compassed contemporary "show-me-boy," whose letter appearing in EBONY, January 1949 on Page 4, and others of his ilk, weeping "down home" tears over the article on the Kinsey Report seems to me to be just mere millstones about the necks of a minor group of underprivileged, harassed, hyphenated Americans.

The end of the hush-hush, nice-nasty benighted days is proven by the fact that tuberculosis, birth control, social diseases, matrimony and other things once taboo have in this more enlightened day become an everyday needed science study.

Constructive criticism in its place may be worth its weight in gold at times, but whenever the blind steps up to lead the blind—call a halt. That has been our biggest trouble in all walks of life, except none.

J. B. WOOLFORK  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Undoubtedly the reason that discussions of sex in print are so vigorously assailed is that there are many, many individuals who are shamefully incapable of cleverly discussing its facets.



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## LETTERS

Continued

Lest there be those who misconstrue my usage of clever, be they informed here and now that the word is synonymous with mental adeptness and quick intelligence. With the more widespread dissemination of material relative to sex and its problems, those who are confused can become educated, should these individuals be adults, and their children would definitely benefit by the more sound sex philosophy of the heads of the home.

WILLARD D. BRISTOL, JR.  
Los Angeles, Calif.

I have just finished your February issue and read some letters of comment on "Mary X." Maybe I haven't seen eye to eye with you on every article but many have opened my eyes. Perhaps I am in the low class but I didn't see anything wrong with the article on "Mary X" or the girl at the bar with the pretty legs.

I notice that you only had two or three to criticize these features.

On the Mary X article, I can't think of a better way to discuss or describe sex to better the conditions of people. There are people I know in the upper classes who need every bit of information.

I know from experience that what Mary X told Dr. Kinsey about her sex life is true. Sex shouldn't only be printed in EBONY, but should be made a topic of family discussion and spoken of in everyday conversation.

Sex in many cases has been the cause of thousands of separations. I've known many to escape the conversation and be the first to get stung. There are many inexperienced people dealing in sex and yet they are too proud to discuss it. And when the pay-off comes, they trot around the globe to protect their names. I salute you, EBONY, for looking this problem in the eye.

CLAUDE L. DUNLAP  
Chicago, Ill.

Those snobs whose letters you printed concerning Dr. Kinsey in the February issue of the magazine either have a false sense of dignity or else are some fools who yearn for the good old days of the Puritans.

Your article on Kinsey was another milestone in the wonderful work being done by an ever increasing number of magazines throughout the country to blaze the nefarious myths and taboos that surround sex, and bring it out into the open as a clean and natural thing. More forthright and frank effort in this direction will someday end the suppression and frustration which exists so widely in the world because of ignorance in sex.

It is apparent that EBONY was not out for more subscribers in the publication of this article, but rather that it did a fine and brave thing in printing it because it has thus far raised such unfavorable comment from readers. Certainly the editors realized that they were going to be bombarded with protests from these narrow people, and that is why they have further commanded my respect for what they did. The fact that you printed the letters which were uncomplimentary to put it mildly, showed a sense of fair play.

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## LETTERS

Continued

I hope that the people who wrote those angry letters were just not thinking, because they exemplified a very dangerous viewpoint that is abroad in our land today. This viewpoint is that of reaction, a thick and arrogant wall that blocks the efforts of decent men to bring progress with its fruitful benefits to people everywhere through enlightenment. In calling these efforts "lewd" or "dirty" or "base," these people only manifest their own misconceptions of the most natural and wonderful things. One reader expressed his wish that EBONY in the future would write about nice and beautiful things. I would like to remind this person that people of true dignity and integrity know no such thing as nice or polite conversation that restricts constructive thinking. I am happy that EBONY, in its fight to raise the dignity of the Negro, has not stooped to anything so petty.

I hope that you take these letters seriously only in that they show what kind of nonsense you are up against in whatever you undertake. I am sure, however, that they represent the attitude of only a small, small cross-section of the many people, both white and black, who enjoy reading your wonderful magazine.

I. WALTER G. GROSS  
Schenectady, N. Y.

## POWELL PORTRAIT

On the cover of the January, 1949 issue of your magazine, you published a family portrait of the A. Clayton Powells, Jr., showing in the background a large portrait painting of Mrs. Powell. This portrait was done several years ago by a talented young Negro painter from Charleston, S. C., whose name is Merton D. Simpson. I feel sure that more information about the young man would be of interest to the readers of EBONY, especially since I firmly believe that in a few years Merton's talent is bound to gain widespread recognition.

KYRA KUHAR

Charleston, S. C.

## ART STUDENT IN EUROPE

The article on "Art Student in Europe" should have been labeled "Prescription for Courage," for, after reading it, I have suddenly come to the conclusion that all is not lost.

I am a student at the Parsons School of Design, studying the same course that Mr. Thompson has finished, but not really knowing what the future has to offer after graduation, so you can now realize how I felt after reading about Mozelle Thompson and the chance he got and is getting.

I wish him all the luck in the world, and thanks to you for the inspiring article.

BOB REED

New York, N. Y.

I read with much pride and interest the article on Mozelle Thompson, the art student, in your February issue of EBONY. You see, Mozelle went to school with me in Pittsburgh. I shall keep the pages in my scrap book.

It was such a thrill to show the ar-

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## LETTERS

Continued

ticle to my friends and say I knew him. I wish him lots of luck and anything else good due him.

RUTH BRYCE

Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### LADY FLORISTS

After reading the article "Lady Florists," in the November issue of EBONY, I was disappointed not to see the name of Mrs. Briggs of Charleston, S. C. included.

I think I am correct in saying she is the only Negro lady florist in that city.

GERTRUDE BETHEA

Southern Pines, N. C.

In November's EBONY, you ran an article on "Lady Florists." I found it interesting but I felt slighted because you omitted any mention of the women who do this work on the West Coast, which is an important part of the United States.

If you had, you most certainly would have made mention of Mrs. Helen Alberga, my favorite florist. Her charm, personality and natural ability has en-



abled her to build her business from a "hole-in-the-wall" on a side street to a large modern shop on the avenue.

I am enclosing a picture of her, with some of her friends, in her new shop.

DR. S. S. BROWN

Los Angeles, Calif.

#### OVERSEAS MAIL

I have been reading EBONY just about a year and a half now. I find it very interesting; in fact, I used to sell them. I am in the U. S. Army and there is something I really would like to know. Will the Negro people ever be free and happy?

When I first came to Germany, November 27, 1948, I heard a white chaplain say, "We know every time a Negro baby is born in Germany because his skin is black, his hair is black and his eyes are brown." Do you think that was right to say?

Now just why does a Negro leave his baby in Germany? I'll tell you why. Because the first thing a Negro thinks is: "How can I take my white wife back to the States when in the South they will hang you for looking at a white woman?" Yes, it's just as well if a Negro wants to marry a white woman in Germany for him to stay here.

The Negro still has a fight on his hands. I hope I live to see the day when our children will be able to go where they choose, when they choose,

## Are you in the know?



#### What would you do in this situation?

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- Ask your brother

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This new policy also has a double indemnity feature covering travel accidents. You receive \$50 a week if disabled by an accident in a bus, taxi cab, train, subway or street car, and \$75 a week if the accident requires hospital confinement. The death benefit increases to \$2,000.00 if caused by a travel accident.

In addition, the policy covers many sicknesses including pneu-

monia, cancer, appendicitis operation, etc., paying the weekly benefits whether confined to home or hospital.

Your benefits are never reduced even though you are also insured in a Group Plan, Blue Cross or other Hospitalization Insurance. So if you are now a member of some worthy hospitalization plan, you still need this additional protection. Only a small percentage of people are confined to a hospital, and even then only for a fraction of the time they are disabled. Most people—over 80%—are confined at home where hospitalization plans do not apply. Or, they are hospitalized for a few days or a week, then spend weeks of convalescence at home before they can go back to work again. The North American Policy pays specified benefits regardless of whether you are confined to your home or to a hospital.

North American Accident Insurance Company of Chicago has been in business for more than sixty-two years, and is one of the largest sickness and accident companies. It has paid out over \$45,000,000 to grateful policy holders when they needed help most. North American is licensed by the Insurance Department of 47 States and the District of Columbia.

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## LETTERS

Continued

without being hurt inside. Only with the help of God can we live in peace and be happy.

PVT. DONALD E. MOORE  
U.S. Army, Germany

I read in your September issue where a soldier on Guam told how the natives were misled by the white soldiers into believing that Negro troops have tails. The same thing was going on in Germany until the boys and myself showed around a great many copies of EBONY. The one that got them most was the marriage of Anne Brown to Thorleif Schjelderup because they were told that Negroes were not allowed to marry whites.

As for these German frauleins, they give a soldier comfort. They make you feel as if you are wanted, not as if you are something that nobody should associate with. The more they are around a soldier, the more they understand him and that's what is supposed to be done over here to make them understand our way of living.

PFC. LOUIS FARRELL, JR.  
Nuremberg, Germany

I am still enjoying the EBONY magazines sent us a few weeks ago and passed them on to friends of ours (Indian-Assyrian Christian) and do they enjoy them. One says they are better than Life. He's gullible about information pertaining to us (Negroes) so he relishes them along with us. Then after we have looked, read and reread, we send them to the "Y" where the boys enjoy them too. So you are really doing your bit for India.

MILDRED BURR  
Esplanade YMCA

Madras, India

### CLOTHES OF LINCOLN'S WIFE

Do any of the readers of EBONY have in their possession any of the personal accessories or clothing or other relics of Mary Todd Lincoln, the wife of Abraham Lincoln?

I am nearing completion of five years' research on a book about Mrs. Lincoln's clothing. I know that Mrs. Elizabeth Keckley, her dressmaker and close friend, had at one time in her possession a number of such articles, many of which she gave away, the remainder being lost in a fire. Possibly some of those things have been handed down in the families of some of EBONY's readers. If so, or if anyone can give me any lead to information about relics of that nature still in existence, and their location, I will deeply appreciate it.

All I have found so far are in the Chicago Historical Society Museum, the Smithsonian and Ford's Museum in Washington, D. C., The Lincoln Shrine at Redlands, California, the Wisconsin State Historical Society Museum, relatives in Springfield, Illinois and two private collections elsewhere.

At one time some of Mrs. Lincoln's clothing was on display at Wilberforce University. Can anyone give me any information about that?

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VOL. IV, NO. 6

# EBONY

APRIL, 1949

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### COVER

Mary McLeod Bethune is perhaps the best known Negro woman in America outside the entertainment field. From a humble background, she became a leading educator building a college out of the swamps in Florida and later became a top-ranking adviser to President Roosevelt on Negro affairs. She was a regular visitor to the White House and tells of her talks with FDR in an article on Page 42 of this issue. Kodachrome is by Edwards Burks of Scope.



### EBONY PICTURES

The following is a page-by-page listing of the sources of the photos in this issue. Where several sources are credited, the listing is from left to right, top to bottom:

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16—WERNER WOLFF, B.S.—EDWARD BROWN, ACME, WAYNE MILLER, ACME  
Abbreviations: B.S.—Black Star; F.P.G.—Free Lance

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## BACKSTAGE



ACH YEAR the highly-effective National Urban League sets aside one week in March for one of its most meritorious campaigns, an all-out drive to popularize the many and varied job opportunities open to Negroes who have the ambition, training and talent to fit into a host of interesting pursuits. During 1949 the league conducted its 17th annual drive along these lines. One new feature of this year's campaign has been the use of EBONY for guidance and counseling to young and old alike on the many unusual, well-paying jobs available to them. Through actual examples that offer true inspiration, the league has been able to interest many Negroes in fields that normally would escape their attention.

Since its first issue EBONY has made a studied effort to run regular pictorial stories on Negroes who have made their mark in off-the-beaten-track fields. Results can be observed in the flood of letters that usually come to these successful Negroes from others who want to try their hand at the same job. Typical is the piece we ran some time ago on mink rancher Robert A. Crosby of Hartford, Michigan. As a result, Crosby got letters from almost every state from people who wanted to go into the mink business. One young man, who read EBONY's story, Lenwood Elliot of Washington, D. C., journeyed to Crosby's farm and stayed there five months while learning the mink business.

EBONY hopes to continue to run similar stories in future issues not only for their general interest but also to point up the opportunities available to ambitious colored youths.

The two biggest picture magazines in America paid EBONY a double honor in January. In a single week both Life and Look reprinted features and pictures from EBONY. Life used our story on the Negro girl who attends the University of Arkansas medical school while Look gave its readers a peek at our piece on the Negro doctor and his family who have been "passing" in a New England town.

Next month's issue is crowded once again with topnotch features headed by an exclusive yarn on the future prospects for Negroes in the big leagues, complete with statements by every one of the 16 major league club owners as well as a roundup of colored players who may be signed up next for the top baseball circuits. There's also a bangup yarn on "The Society Rulers of Twenty Cities" and a revealing story on Negroes who live in Alaska like the gold prospector above.



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# THE TEN RICHEST NEGROES IN AMERICA

With their income at a record peak of ten billion dollars annually, Negroes can boast more millionaires than half the nations in world

TO AN AMERICA accustomed to reading only of Negro poverty, crime and illiteracy, the existence of Negro millionaires is sensational news. Yet today with its income topping the ten-billion-dollar mark, Negro America can boast of more millionaires than half the nations in the world. Following in the typical rags-to-riches legend, these colored Horatio Algers are dramatic, graphic evidence of the driving ambition and business sagacity of far-sighted Negroes who have accepted the challenge of the "land of opportunity."

A survey of wealthy Negroes shows that most have accumulated their riches legitimately in such enterprises as banking, insurance, undertaking and oil. A few have oper-

ated questionable ventures. Of these latter, novelist Richard Wright once noted that they would have been bigtime steel tycoons, Wall Street brokers and auto moguls had they been white. But their color forced them to operate outside the pale of the law to make their fortunes.

Whatever the source of their wealth, Negro wealthy like rich whites are tight-lipped and reticent about disclosing their wealth lest they be the target for promoters and swindlers. But like white wealthy, their convertibles and sables, their manorial estates and private yachts are a certain mark of their financial standing.

Basically Negro millionaires have derived their wealth from other Negroes. That there

are more than a half dozen is a testimonial to the growing wealth of all Negroes. Today's pay envelope for Negro workers is at an all-time peak despite a slight increase in unemployment in recent months.

Strangely enough, the wealth of these Negroes in several cases was amassed in businesses that arose as a result of color prejudice. Because white firms would not insure Negroes and white funeral parlors would not bury Negroes, insurance and undertaking have become the biggest Negro businesses.

On these pages EBONY has selected the richest Negroes in ten key fields. They are proof of the growing stature of Negroes in American life.

## BANKING



William M. "Gooseneck" McDonald, 82-year-old retired multimillionaire Texan, is probably America's richest Negro. Besides extensive farm lands and other valuable Texas properties, the ex-teacher owns real estate in many cities including Oklahoma City, Dallas, Houston and Chicago (where his apartment buildings are valued at \$250,000). He first plummeted to financial success as political secretary to a wealthy railroad heir, became representative for the family's vast oil and land interests. He founded the Fort Worth Fraternal Bank and Trust Company in 1908, soared to high standing in the Texan Republican Party. A power in fraternal circles, he built the Masonic Temple in Fort Worth and gave the McDonald YMCA to the city. Named "Gooseneck" because of his prominent Adam's apple, he lives in semi-seclusion with his fifth wife in a spacious home he built when he first came to Fort Worth from Alabama 32 years ago. His only son died mysteriously while attending Howard University. After a court trial in which he was involved, McDonald was approached by a white reporter who said: "May I shake your hand. I never met a Negro millionaire before."

## INSURANCE



Charles G. Spaulding, 72, heads the world's largest Negro-owned business and is personally rated as a millionaire by a ranking U.S. credit agency. In addition to being president of the \$60,000,000 North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, he also heads a Durham bank and loan association. Starting as a \$10-a-month dishwasher, he insured the first policy holder of his company for \$40, collected premium of 65 cents. He presently draws \$20,000 annual salary, has \$25,000 home. Rated No. 2 in the insurance field is handsome Norris B. Herndon, 47-year-old son and heir of the late founder of another insurance dynasty, the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. Herndon is principal stockholder in the \$22,000,000 firm. The late Alonzo Herndon used the earnings from his chain of barbershops for white patrons (Peachtree Street shop was said to be finest in nation) to start insurance business. He left estate to son, a graduate of Harvard University school of business who is personally very shy and retiring—especially as concerns publicity. He has \$15,000 home as well as business property in Atlanta.

## UNDERTAKING



**Robert A. Cole** is probably the nation's wealthiest mortician. Ex-Kentuckian, 62, is top stockholder of \$3,000,000 Chicago insurance firm as well as owner of ultra-modern Metropolitan funeral parlor, which averages 40 to 50 burials weekly. Cole also operates his own 10-car livery service. He draws \$100,000 annual salary from all businesses, is reportedly worth close to \$1,000,000. Coles (two children) have 20-room country home. Ranking close to Cole is Charles S. Jackson (left), 60ish and with assets in six figures. In addition to Chicago undertaking business, he heads Jackson Mutual Life Insurance. An ardent sportsman, he has bought and sold race horses for 52 years. He owns a private hunting lodge and eight-room country home near Chicago. Brother was late Alderman Dan Jackson.

## ENTERTAINMENT



**Marian Anderson**, internationally-famous contralto, is in the top income bracket in the entertainment field, and is said by some insiders to be the richest Negro woman in America. Her regular concert tours and recordings net her an income in six figures yearly. Except for lavish gowns and her 105-acre farm in Connecticut, she is not a big spender. Some rate her a millionaire. Probable second as richest entertainer goes to radio, stage and screen star Eddie "Rochester" Anderson (left), who nets \$150,000 yearly from the Jack Benny program alone. He gets \$750 for every minute he's on the air. His \$50,000 home with swimming pool, miniature railroad and workshop is a Hollywood showplace. Actually his show name, "Rochester," is owned by Benny, who also negotiates all his movie contracts.

## POLICY



**The Jones brothers**, Ed and George, are multi-millionaires. Former Chicago policy kings, they hold over \$1,000,000 in gilt-edge stocks and bonds and own more property on Chicago's 47th Street than any other Negroes. Ex-waiter Ed served 22-month prison term for evading taxes on 1933-38 gross income of \$1,696,175. After gangland kidnapping in 1946 and reported payment of \$100,000 ransom, Ed retired with family to Mexico City mansion. Chicago Herald-American estimated Jones' worth at \$3,000,000. Runner-up in policy-made wealth is James "Big Jim" Martin (left) of Chicago's West Side with reputed net worth upwards of \$500,000. He has extensive realty holdings, including much-bombed \$50,000 night spot and a \$25,000 suburban home. Martin, 63, began his operations with small poolroom.

## FARMING



**The Bond brothers** of Madison, Arkansas, rank as the wealthiest Negro farmers in the nation. Theo Bond (left), 64, and brother Ulysses, 56, are sons of millionaire farmer Scott Bond, onetime close associate of Booker T. Washington who owned 3,000 rich acres of cotton land. Besides vast farm holdings, brothers run Bondol laboratory (manufacturers of embalming fluids) and are largest Negro funeral supply jobbers in U. S. Their five salesmen cover 27 states, sold more than 12,000 cases of embalming fluid last year. They had a casket factory which ran 15 years but it is closed now. They are only Negro members of rich white planters' cotton gin co-op. Conservative estimate of their worth ranges high in six figures. Ranking close to Bonds is another Arkansas farmer, Pickens Black of "Blackville" (Black owns the town). He has 9,000 acres of fertile bottomland, pays more taxes than anyone in Jackson county. Besides cotton grown by 100 tenants on farm, Black had 800 acres in rice last year. He has a commissary and cotton gin on farm which is extensively mechanized. His son has an airplane and his own landing field. Black has accumulated most of his wealth through hard work. His holdings which include a school, church, community house and general store for the farm tenants comprise the town of "Blackville."

## MEDICINE



**Dr. Theodore K. Lawless**, one of the nation's best skin specialists, rates as the richest Negro doctor. The wealthy 58-year-old bachelor has treated nearly a million patients during his 21 years of practice. His imposing 18-room home in Chicago is worth \$45,000, also houses his offices (with \$15,000 in medical equipment). He has a Michigan summer home, extensive real estate holdings. Besides liberal donations to Dillard University (including \$5,000 memorial to father), he has given over \$50,000 to Chicago's Provident Hospital. No. 2 in income in the medical field is Detroit's Dr. Alf E. Thomas, Sr. (left), 71, who heads his own hospital. He has extensive private practice, nets \$25,000 yearly from apartment buildings he owns. His own home is valued at \$40,000. He has been a doctor 40 years.

## OIL



**The Sewell brothers**, Bill and John, are youngest among America's ten richest Negroes. Only in their 30's, they have trust fund in excess of million dollars accumulated from oil discovered on Arkansas farm bought by grandmother for \$34. Their royalties from 243 wells leased by three big companies have topped \$25,000 monthly. Both now live in Chicago, where they have invested in real estate. John once owned \$6,500 custom-built Chrysler Thunderbolt. When Bill divorced his wife, he gave her \$50,000 home, a car and \$400 a month for life. He drives a 1948 Cadillac, plans to move to the West Coast soon. Other oil millionaires include Sarah Rector Crawford of Kansas City, whose Oklahoma holdings were valued at \$3,000,000 at one time (wells on her farm produced \$10,000 daily); Forrest Anderson of the all-Negro town of Boley, Oklahoma, who netted over a million on oil strike near Seminole; and Bessie Craighen Thompson, now in Elsinore, Calif., whose Glenfield, Oklahoma, oil estate once was bringing in \$65,000 annually. Anderson is probably the richest of the oil millionaires, his worth being set at \$2,000,000 by a big credit rating firm. The 60-year-old widower was once a farmer. When the Boley bank was closed after a major robbery in 1932, he purchased the assets and paid all the depositors.

## RELIGION



**Father Divine** is tops in wealth among religious leaders, some estimates of his assets running up to \$3,000,000. His followers have been liberal in their donations to his cult, at least one \$500,000 estate being included. He recently purchased a 10-story Philadelphia hotel with \$460,000 in small bills. Divine, whose marriage to a white Canadian girl made front page headlines, has most of property in name of church and insists: "I haven't a dime." Also in the million-dollar class is Elder Solomon Lightfoot Micheaux (left), "Happy Am I" radio preacher with big realty holdings from Norfolk to New York. The 72-year-old cult head is said to have control of association with vast Newport News realty investments. Like Divine, he pleads: "Money is something we don't discuss, don't even count."

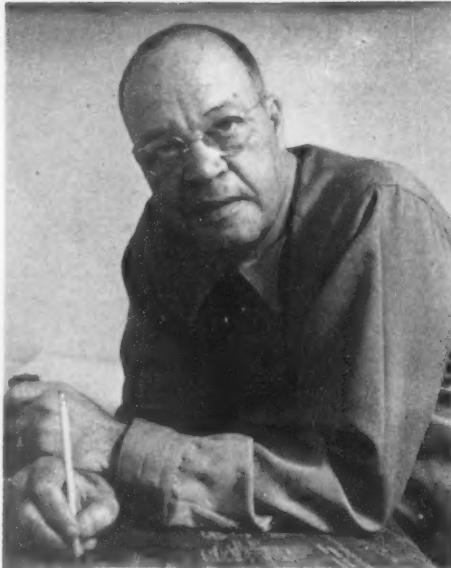
## REAL ESTATE



**Augustine A. Austin** is said to be wealthiest Negro in New York. Jamaica-born millionaire, working through his five real estate companies, owns or controls seven rich pieces of Harlem property (including swank 409 Edgecombe and other Sugar Hill buildings) and five apartment buildings on exclusive Riverside Drive. One of his top realty firms has negotiated \$3,000,000 in sales in a single year. Austin is a fervent cricket fan, gives financial aid to causes in native West Indies island. Also in millionaire class in realty is Detroit's Everett Watson (left), 64, whose Watson Realty Co. is reported by one realtor to own property worth \$2,000,000, has built and sold homes in a big subdivision in Ecorse. He has a big farm estate near Jackson with a private lake and a \$1,700 fence around it.



**Mrs. Sarah Washington**, 55, heads \$500,000 Apex hair and cosmetic company in Atlantic City, N. J. Former Philadelphia beauty shop operator draws \$25,000 annual salary, has large realty holdings and partnership in drug store. Her firm, now 21 years old, does \$500,000 business each year.



**Archie A. Alexander**, 60, has completed 300 building projects valued at close to \$20,000,000 in past 34 years. Des Moines engineer and white college chum partner is currently erecting \$3,500,000 D.C. Speedway. His assets are estimated at close to \$500,000. Alexander has weekly payroll of \$14,000.



**Dr. John B. Martin**, 60, is former Memphis pharmacist with realty and baseball investments in Chicago. First Negro elected trustee of Chicago Sanitary District (salary \$7,500 yearly) has \$50,000 in war bonds, owns Chicago American Giants. His worth is estimated at more than \$200,000.

## NEGRO WEALTHY INVEST WISELY IN REALTY, GILT-EDGE STOCKS

SEVENTY years ago the great Negro leader Frederick Douglass told an audience at an Elmira, N.Y., rally: "If the time shall ever come when we shall possess, in the colored people of the United States, a class of men noted for enterprise, industry, economy and success, we shall no longer have any trouble in the matter of civil and political rights."

Today Negro Americans are closer to that goal than ever before in their history.

The era of prosperity that followed World War I produced the first big crop of wealthy Negroes. Typical of the flourishing 20's was Chicagoan Edward Morris, a brilliant corporation lawyer who represented only giant corporations and whose fees ranged up to \$100,000 a case. Many stories are told of the social life of the Morris'. Perhaps the most common is about the poodle whose hair was put up in curlers by a

French maid. The dog had a bassinette and silk initialed bed covers while alive, a real casket and funeral at its death. When Morris passed away several years ago, he left his big estate mostly to Howard University upon the death of his adopted daughter who receives \$500 monthly for the rest of her life.

Many of the fortunes made in the 20's were wiped out by the depression. Probably hardest hit were Chicago bankers Jesse Binga and Anthony Overton. Binga, who rose from a barber and Pullman porter to head the Binga State Bank which at one time had a million in deposits, was convicted of embezzlement and died broke. Overton, whose Kansas City cosmetic business reaped rich dividends, moved to Chicago where he set up the Douglass National Bank and Victory Life Insurance Company. Both failed in 1932 but the cosmetic business is carried on by his son.



**W. J. Edwards**, 54, made a fortune in an Oklahoma City junk business after migrating from Mississippi in 1916. He now runs own realty firm with extensive holdings, a lumber yard, grocery and a big new \$500,000 hospital. His real estate alone is worth \$100,000. Most of his money was made as a dealer in scrap.



**Irving Roane**, 63, is a former Chicago realty man who owns half-interest in Detroit's Gotham Hotel (valued at \$225,000). He is also connected with Detroit funeral parlor. Roane has big \$25,000 farm at Bloomingdale, Michigan. Virginia-born businessman is rated in \$250,000 class.



**Dr. J. E. Walker**, 68, is majority stockholder in Memphis Tri-State Bank and Universal Life Insurance Company, the two with estimated worth of \$6,000,000. He draws \$30,000 yearly in salary from the businesses. His \$60,000 home is one of the most beautiful in Memphis. Physician is worth close to \$500,000.



Julian A. Black, 56, Chicago real estate man and former manager of Joe Louis, is said to hold \$250,000 in cash plus extensive real estate properties. One-time owner of grocery and lunch room has beautiful South Side home. His realty office handles insurance as well as stocks and bonds. Black purchased a sixth interest in Louis in 1934, got close to \$100,000 as his share of earnings before parting with heavyweight champ four years ago.

## AND U. S. GOVERNMENT BONDS

Robert S. Abbott amassed much wealth from the Chicago Defender. Coming to Chicago in 1905 with "25 cents, a pencil and a scratch pad," the Georgia-born journalist developed the paper into a \$300,000 enterprise. His own salary was once \$2,000 a week and he had a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce.

Most Negro wealthy have not garnered their money overnight by sudden strikes. Rather they have built slowly and solidly in many essentially stable ventures. Even where Negroes have become rich in enterprises like policy and religious cults, they have invested wisely in real estate, in gilt-edged stocks and in government bonds. Typical are the Jones brothers, who are today virtually retired in Mexico City. They are reported to have \$600,000 in government bonds as well as extensive holdings in steady stocks such as Woolworth and American Telephone and Telegraph.



Arthur G. Gaston, 56, is amazing Birmingham businessman who last year paid reported \$49,000 income tax. He has \$50,000 funeral home, heads insurance company and owns business college (350 students), employment agency, cemetery and bottling firm that turns out 4,000 cases of soda pop each week. He started working in a steel foundry 25 years ago, is supposed to have assets of more than \$300,000 today. Gaston owns a palatial \$20,000 home.

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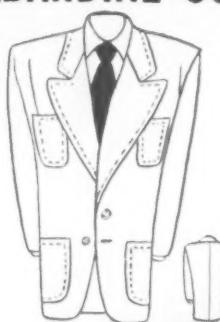
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_



Col. John McKee, Philadelphia real estate operator, was the richest Negro of the 19th Century and was described by white newspapers on his death in 1902 as "the most remarkable Negro in America." He left estate of \$2,000,000.



Edward T. Morris, outstanding Chicago corporation lawyer, left a million-dollar estate when he died. He passed the Illinois bar without ever going to law school, became one of the best U.S. lawyers and held several key political jobs.

## TWO NEW ORLEANS MEN WERE FIRST NEGRO MILLIONAIRES

AS FAR back as the halcyon days of King Solomon and Egypt's Pharaohs, there have been fabulously-wealthy Negroes.

One of the first in America was sea captain Paul Cuffe who built up a small fortune at an early age with a fleet of sailing ships that plied the Atlantic between Boston, the West Indies and England. When he died in 1817, he left an estate of \$20,000. There is a granite memorial to him at Westport, Mass.

Before the Civil War, Negroes were counted among rich plantation owners, both free-born and freedom-bought. Louisiana led all other states in black planter aristocracy. When Martin Donat died in 1848, he owned 89 slaves as well as notes and mortgages valued at \$46,000. The free Negroes of Charleston on the eve of the war possessed a million in real estate and nearly 4,000 slaves. The finest hotel in town was owned by free Jeju Jones.

Two New Orleans men were probably the first Negro millionaires in America. Francois Delacroix bought his freedom for \$2,000, became a tailor and amassed amazing wealth in seven figures. Catholic Thomy Lafon, a free Negro money lender of French-Haitian blood, became a millionaire from his operations that started in a grocery store. He gave away a fortune during his lifetime, left a half million to religious and educational institutions, mostly white.

Not all the wealthy Negroes of the 19th Century were in the South, however. The richest was a Philadelphia Negro, Col. John McKee, whose name recently gained front page prominence when his grandson quit "passing" as a Wall Street lawyer and went into court to claim the trust fund of \$800,000 left by McKee. However, the 67-year-old attorney died before the courts could settle his claim.

The original Colonel McKee left \$2,000,000 when he died in 1902. He was a Virginia Negro, born free, who was apprenticed to a bricklayer at an early age. Later he went to Philadelphia to work in a livery stable and then a restaurant. After marrying his employer's daughter and taking over the business, he began to dabble in real estate. He ran up a fortune by providing homes in Philadelphia for migrating Negroes in exchange for property owned by them in the South. One such transaction netted him lands rich in soft coal. With the money he made on his Southern real estate, he invested in property in the North and at one time was supposed to have owned 1,000,000 acres of land. At the time of his death, his property included 400 Philadelphia houses and 20,000 acres in Steuben County, New York. He was founder and owner of McKee City, New Jersey (which still exists today with a population of 185).

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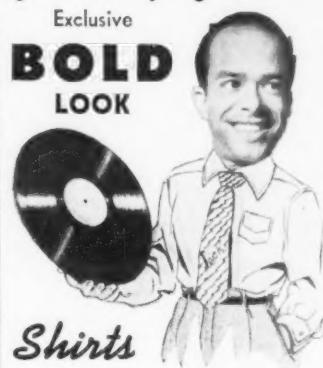
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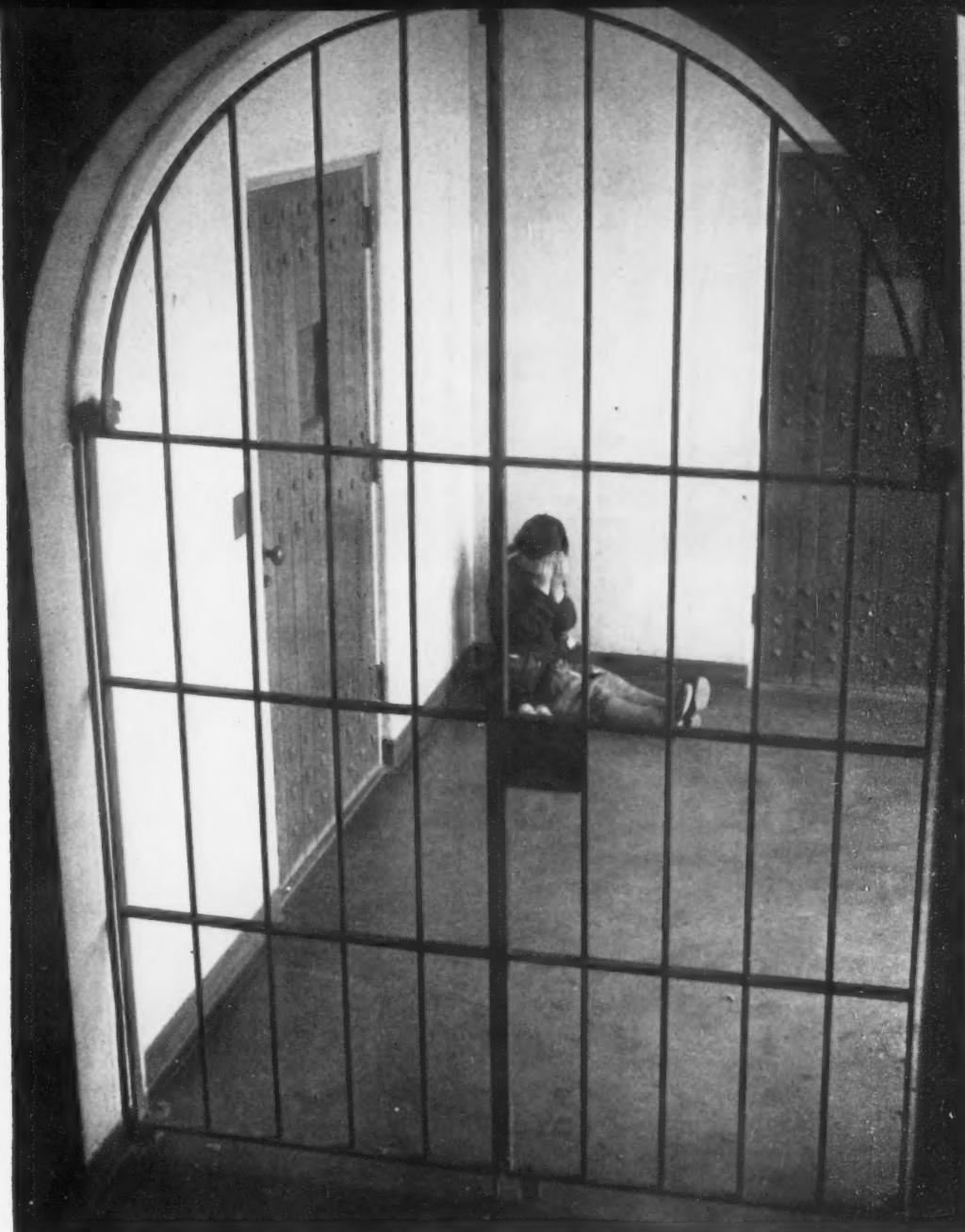
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# INSANITY

## Mental illness among Negroes exceeds whites, over crowds already-jammed 'Snake Pits'

FOR two decades now U. S. Negroes have been going insane at a much higher rate than whites. Migrating from farms to face the stresses of city life and living to a much older and insecure age, colored Americans are cracking up mentally at a rate that completely belies the longtime myth of their "happy-go-lucky" nature. Today colored inmates in insane asylums are exceeded by the total Negro population of only 15 cities. One out of every ten Negroes now walking the streets is sufficiently neurotic to require medical care. In the last 40 years the number of Negroes in mental hospitals has multiplied by five times.

To the nation's 4,432 psychiatrists, only eight of them Negro, the soaring colored insanity rate has been a source of controversy and much research if not business (private psychoanalysis costing a minimum of \$10 per hour is beyond the cost of most Negroes). But to the 631 scandalously-overcrowded mental hospitals in the U. S., the "snake pits" so vividly dramatized in the recent movie based on

**Hiding her face all day**, this mentally-ill woman at California's Camarillo State Hospital (21.3% overcrowded with some beds only eight inches apart) suffers from hallucinations. Institution has 400 Negro patients.

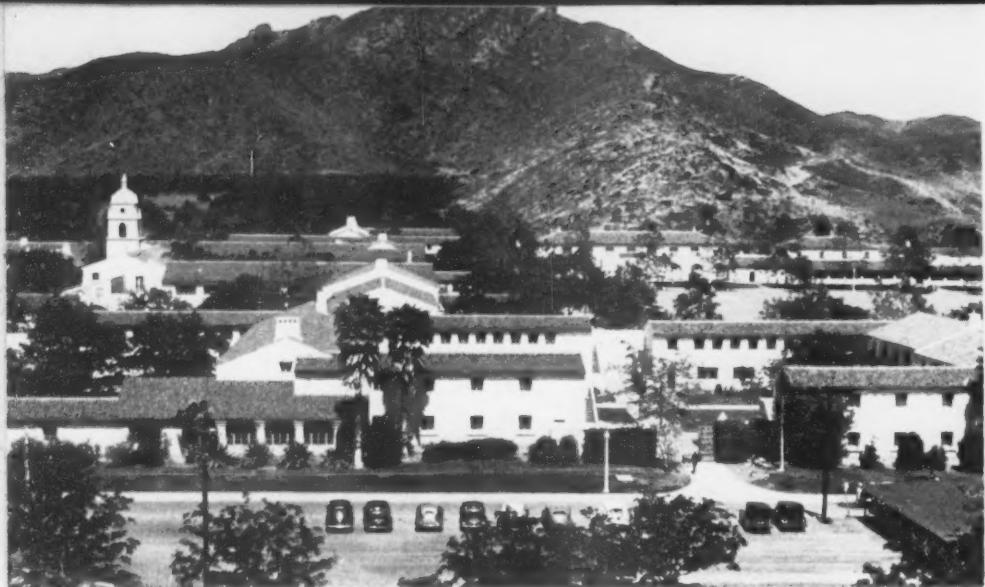
Mary Jane Ward's best seller, the growing number of Negro patients knocking on their doors has been cause for alarm.

There simply are not enough beds, doctors or funds available to cope with the mental casualties of modern civilization. If for white patients, the result has been institutions that are more jails than hospitals, then for Negroes the situation approaches Nazi concentration camp standards—especially in the South where three out of every five colored insane are confined. Georgia's Milledgeville State Hospital has been cited by newspaperman Albert Deutsch as the worst in the nation and its Negro wards described as unbelievable "this side of Dante's Inferno."

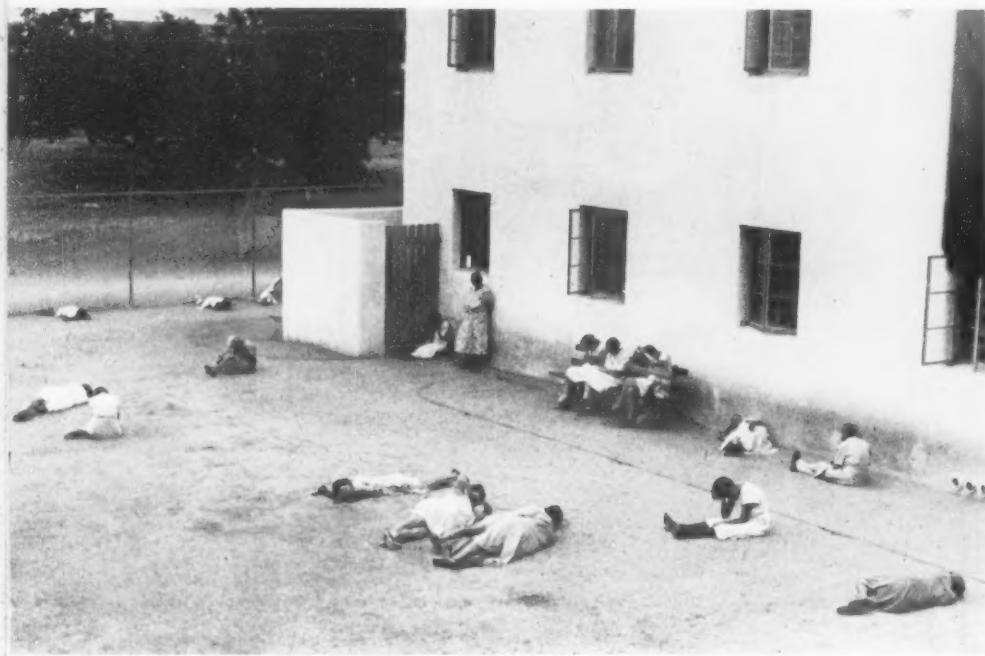
In the North all state hospitals have wiped out color lines among patients but most private institutions (average fee \$2,500 yearly) refuse to admit Negroes. Fewer than three per cent are accepted for treatment. With inferior care in jammed, understaffed state hospitals, chances for recovery are low, 10 per

cent as compared with 57 per cent in the nation's 226 private asylums. Most end up their years living a bare, wretched existence in their own twisted worlds. Some are just nobodies, friendless and penniless to their dying day; others may be the once-famous like Negro baseball's greatest pitcher, Rube Foster, who died in an Illinois asylum.

Care varies from state to state but no government-supported hospital has yet met the minimum requirements for treatment. About halfway in the nation's scale are New York's institutions which house more Negro insane than any other state (5,355). In New York as well as Illinois and California, colored admissions to asylums exceed white by two to one. However, figures show that most insane Negroes in New York are migrants from the South. To show how Northern states handle their mentally ill, EBONY photographer Larry Barbier went through California's Camarillo State hospital. His pictures are a graphic portrait of how Negro mentally ill fare.



1600-acre Camarillo State Hospital near Pacific Ocean has beautiful exterior but behind walls and bars patients live in dark mental worlds of their own, lying on bare ground in brilliant sunlight (below).



Overcrowded mess hall is typical of facilities. With no beds left, officials are about to put mattresses on floors. Patients sit in dark doorways and towel rooms for lack of space.



With nothing to do patients sit for hours in chronic ward. One doctor says: "There's no substitute for talking to each patient but we don't have enough time or doctors."



In group therapy class led by inmate (at desk) and doctor (left), patients talk about their illness, listen to music, give parties to approach normal life.

## PREJUDICE NO

HOW MUCH mental illness among Negroes is caused by racial prejudice is subject to debate. While one medical expert has asserted that the most prevalent insanity among Negroes is a mania of persecution, Negro psychiatrist Dr. Orville Sheffield (who practiced during the war at Tuskegee Hospital) insists: "Negroes don't go insane because of prejudice. But I have seen cases made worse by prejudice. It's a contributing factor, except in rare instances when a horrible experience like an attempted lynching starts a man's mind disintegrating."

All psychiatrists agree that the low income, inadequate housing, loose family life and all-around second class status forced upon the Negro by racial discrimination are keys to the mental sickness which has put one out of every 200 Negroes in an insane asylum. Typical victim was Joe Louis' father, Munroe Barrow, who snapped at the age of 26 under the strain of trying to eke out a living for his wife and seven children as an Alabama sharecropper. He died at Alabama's Searcy State Hos-



**Straitjackets** are put on most dangerous patients. Infamous "padded cell" is obsolete today and not used in any modern mental hospital.



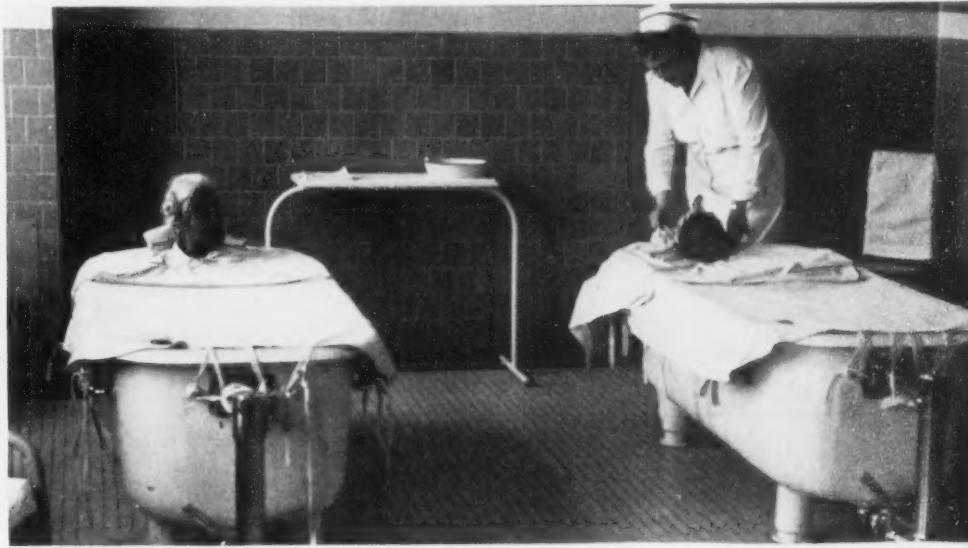
**Picture book** is shown to patient with mental age of two. There are 4% more Negro men in asylums than women. Single men outnumber married by two to one.



**Restricted to bed**, patient occupies time by reading. Most Negro insane are between the ages of 35 and 44.



**Electric shock treatment** is used to jolt patient back to normal. Voltage is passed through patient's brain. Mute patients may be able to talk after shock.



**Warm water baths** are given patients for three hours, theory being that water running on their bodies will soothe their minds. Other treatment includes narcoticsynthesis, in which "truth serum" makes patient talk about things he will not discuss when fully conscious. This may give clue to cause of mental disorder.

## CAUSE OF INSANITY, BUT HELPS JAM ASYLUMS

pital at the age of 58 without knowing his son had reigned as heavyweight champion longer than any man in history.

Mental ailment which most affects Negroes is schizophrenia, which at last count affected four out of every ten colored insane. Hitting mainly persons between 15 and 30, the disorder results in a split personality in which the emotions run counter to the mind's thinking. A patient may talk of death yet laugh, may be inclined to daydream and adopt strange postures. Schizophrenia is twice as frequent among New York Negroes as in New York whites. Other leading mental diseases among Negroes are manic-depressive psychoses (alternate disordered speech and thinking as well as moodiness) and paresis (attack on the brain by the syphilis germ).

Some psychiatrists claim that there is less insanity among Negroes in the South than in the North due to the rural living pattern of Dixie. But there is much evidence to indicate that these findings are false. Most statistics, which are cited to support this conclusion, are

based on actual admissions to asylums and in Georgia, for instance, Negroes are 8.8 per cent of the population and only 5.5 per cent of admissions to mental hospitals. In Illinois, however, Negroes are 6 per cent of the state population and 12 per cent of asylum inmates.

While the highest Negro admission rates are found in a dozen Northern states (Nevada and Oregon top the list), lack of facilities as well as outright discrimination keep Negroes out of asylums in the South. Negro biologist Julian Lewis reports: "In many places in the South it is practice not to confine white or colored patients with mental disease unless they are destructive to life or property." Despite Dixie discrimination which keeps all but the most severe Negro cases out of state hospitals, Negro insanity rates in all but four Southern states are higher than for whites. Southern Negroes who have migrated North are 90.7 per cent of the colored patients in New York mental institutions, while the rate for native New York Negroes is the same as for whites.

The growing number of Negro psychotics in

the U. S. is in strange contrast to the relative sanity of African Negroes. A recent study by Dr. J. C. Carothers, medical officer in charge of the Matharia Mental Hospital in Kenya, shows a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 Kenya Negroes as compared with 161 among Massachusetts Negroes. Carothers explains the difference in the lack of repressions and rigid sex standards in Africa.

While movies like *The Snake Pit* and countless magazine exposés of mental institutions have made America genuinely conscious of its treatment of mentally-ill, none but a few psychiatrists are aware of the shocking growth of insanity among Negroes. Mental hospitals are jammed increasingly with Negro patients whose annual bill to the public runs in excess of \$4,000,000. As more and more Negroes move to cities and face the frustrations, hopelessness and fears of urban life, the Negro insanity rate is bound to soar. By 1960, if the past increase continues, one out of every 15 Negroes may spend some part of his life in a mental hospital.

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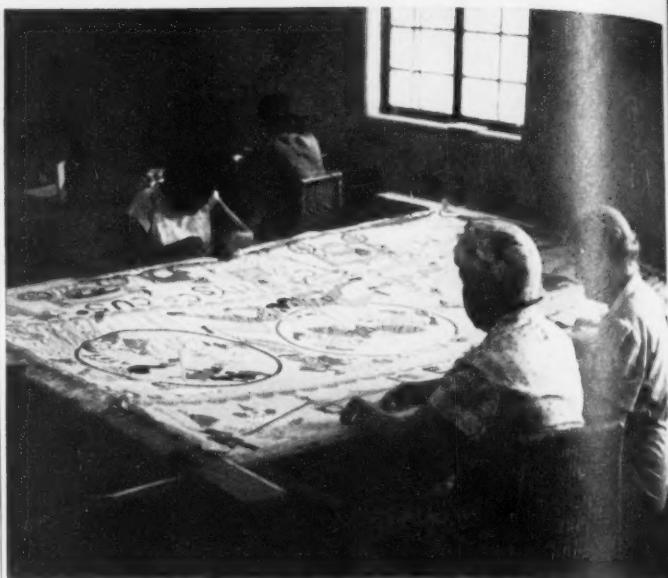
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Occupational therapy for patients follows hospital aim to keep patients in usual daily life habits. Circus scene bedspread made by inmates will sell for \$50. Most Negro inmates have had no more than four years of schooling.

## ASYLUM STAFFS RATHER THAN PATIENTS BIASED

MODERN-DAY treatment of the insane (considered by most psychiatrists as an old-fashioned, legal word without medical meaning) is no older than psychiatry itself: some 60 years. It can be an expensive or low-cost item, varying from the \$22 per day charged by the Menninger Foundation to the 40 cents per day spent in some state mental hospitals. Care is as varied as fees.

The rate of cure follows quite closely to the amount of money and time spent on a patient. In Southern hospitals, for instance, white patients who get better treatment leave institutions at a much higher rate than Negroes. At South Carolina State Hospital Negroes last year were 45 per cent of the inmates but were only 22 per cent of those discharged. One reason can be seen in the work assignments given Negroes. Some 50 colored patients worked as scrubwomen and 20 more got kitchen jobs while no whites were given such menial tasks.

*Snake Pit* author Mary Jane Ward told EBONY: "The most urgent race problem in connection with the mentally ill is in the staff rather than in the patient department." She and others who have studied U. S. mental institutions find little color bias among the insane themselves, but much among those who are supposed to cure the mentally unbalanced. A recent survey by the National Mental Health Foundation found one out of every five mental hospitals segregate patients (almost all below the Mason and Dixon line) and more than half employ no Negro help. A superintendent of one large state hospital insisted he was not biased but was against Negro attendants because "white patients would resent being directed and supervised by colored persons."

Yet the first winner of the Psychiatric Aide of the Year award of \$500 given to the best among 12,000 U. S. mental hospital attendants was a Kansas Negro, Walter Starnes, who has worked miracles with many white patients, some of them from the South. He works at the interracial Menninger Hospital in Topeka, Kansas, the foremost institution of its kind in the nation where 15 per cent of all psychiatrists are currently getting their training. Camarillo assistant superintendent Dr. Louis R. Nash says: "There's no color line in mental illness. It is a great leveler."

Miss Ward declares: "I have observed many examples of brotherhood in mental hospitals and I don't remember any instances of race prejudice. I think the average white patient regards the average Negro patient as a fellow sufferer. The employment of Negro doctors and nurses isn't likely to disturb the average white patient."

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of Negro psychiatrists to take positions in mental institutions. Few are being trained. There are none at Meharry and only one is enrolled at Howard medical school.

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Games like dominoes are played by patients in non-segregated wards. Insane are no different than sane in their color bias, says Dr. Louis Nash, assistant superintendent. "Their prejudices remain the same as when sane."



Folk dancing is prescribed for juvenile patients, sent to Camarillo by court order for mental tests. Most come from broken homes, have committed small crimes. Before sentence, they are given 90-day surveillance at Camarillo.



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## MOST BIG PSYCHIATRISTS WON'T ACCEPT NEGROES

FIVE YEARS ago a prominent New York psychiatrist addressing the annual meeting of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene told of his search in New York for a private mental institution which would admit a rather mildly paranoid colored patient. His search was in vain up and down the Eastern seaboard and his patient, though a man of fair financial standings, had to enter an over-crowded state hospital.

The situation has changed little since then in New York. Not only are Negroes denied hospitalization on an equal basis with whites but also simple psychiatric care. Few white psychiatrists will accept Negro patients for fear of losing their wealthy white clientele. Aside from city-supported Bellevue Hospital (which has an unenviable reputation among Negroes), there is only one clinic where Negroes suffering from mental distress may go. It is the Lafargue Clinic, set up in a church basement three years ago under the leadership of liberal psychiatrist Dr. Frederick Wertham, to cater to New York's 400,000 Negroes at a nominal cost of 25 cents per visit. The clinic does not begin to meet the needs of New York's Negro population but it has made a dent in instilling in many patients what Dr. Wertham calls "the will to survive in a hostile world."

Dr. Wertham, who 20 years ago was chief resident psychiatrist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and the only one in Baltimore who would accept a Negro patient, sees his clinic as an experiment which may be followed by others in the psychiatric field. "But as long as official psychiatry remains what it is today," he adds, "we will have to continue working in a basement, in more ways than one."



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In his first movie role, James Edwards plays top prestige fighter in town in *The Set-Up*. He is treated with most respect of all fighters in arena. Washed-up Robert Ryan, making his last fight, gains confidence from Edwards, shown talking to trainer Wally Ford about coming crack at championship.

## MOVIE DEBUT

### Ex-GI James Edwards passes first film test with help of star Robert Ryan's advice

STAGE FRIGHT and "mike" fright have their Hollywood counterpart in the paralyzing tension that seizes many fledgling actors their first time before the cameras. Passing that first test without "freezing up" in front of the director and technical crew is a crucial moment for every star-to-be. For handsome, 28-year-old Negro army veteran, James Edwards, the camera baptism proved relatively easy going in his first movie role, as a top-ranking prize fighter in RKO's *The Set-Up* starring Robert Ryan.

Much of Edwards' calmness in his first film job was due to the advice and help from Ryan and oldtimer Wally Ford, who plays Edwards' trainer in the picture about a stumblebum fighter on the comeback trail. The impressive Negro stage star (*Deep Are The Roots*), playing a better-than-ordinary role of a No. 1 boxing contender who everyone knows is on his way to the championship, got a lot of

hints from Ryan. "He told me about the differences between stage and screen acting. On the stage you express emotion more or less with complete freedom; on the screen, mostly with the eyes with very little facial contortions."

The first scene for the Indiana-born Edwards, formerly an infantry captain with the 92nd Division and a CIO steel organizer, called for him to be rubbed down by Wally Ford while he and the trainer talked about his rosy future as a champ. Ryan, reliving his own fighting career and ambitions although now in his last fight, sits by, drinking in Edwards' words.

Ryan said of that first shot: "We could see Jimmy was a bit nervous. Just before the cameras started rolling, Wally Ford started rubbing Jimmy's neck, whispering, 'Take it easy, easy kid.' That first time is always rough."

"Luckily I went through the first take without blowing a line," recalls Edwards, a Knoxville College graduate. "From then on, everything was gravy. I did my job and was like everybody else."

*The Set-Up* is a grim, raw, powerful picture that tells the story of a washed-up average boxer, who lives in a Pennsylvania coal town and at the age of 38 signs to fight one more main bout to get money to start a gas station business. In the dressing room waiting for his bout, Ryan watches five fighters go on before him and relives his past in their dreams and anxieties. Finally it's Ryan's turn. He takes a terrific beating (fight sequences in this bout are as good as *Body And Soul*) but manages to win his four-round fight. But his crooked manager and gangster friend have bet on Ryan's opponent. They catch Ryan in the alley, beat him unmercifully, breaking his hands so he'll never be able to fight again.



**Big living room** (33' x 16') features 13-foot solid mirror from floor to 12-foot-high ceiling. Eight-foot custom-built sofa and four armchairs are done in white quilted silk with green and chartreuse tropical pattern. Six 30-inch-high column lamps have white silk shades trimmed in salmon. Room has 26-foot cotton string rug.

## KING COLE DECORATES HIS NEW \$65,000 HOME

**Top-drawer Beverly Hills decorator accents bold colors in furnishing Los Angeles house**

**Upstairs master bedroom** (33' x 16') is done in baby blue and pink selected by Marie Cole. It has a kingsize bed with a 5' x 8' headstead in pink antique satin with white band trim. Two-foot cornice over bed carries out color scheme. At side are hand-painted vine and blossom design. Room has white string carpet, blue walls and ceiling.

WITH the anti-Negro tumult of their snobbish Hancock Park neighbors dying down, popular trio leader King Cole and his wife Marie have been quietly going about the business of furnishing their newly-bought \$65,000 Los Angeles home which last summer made front page headlines. The 12-room red-bricked English Gothic house in the heart of the city's oldest and wealthiest neighborhood is being redone by top-drawer Beverly Hills interior decorator Tom Douglas with style accents on bold colors. It will be almost completely finished by the time the Coles celebrate their first wedding anniversary this month.

Threats of their fashionable society neighbors to sue the Coles under





Patio where Marie Cole relaxes with her dog has white iron furnishings with green upholstery. Swimming pool is planned for rear of house.

terms of a restrictive covenant have been forgotten by now, especially since public support was on the side of the colored couple against white residents who stormed about the "invasion" of the white area. Refurnishing of the home originally built for the late William Lacey, former president of the Chamber of Commerce, has made it one of the most beautiful in the neighborhood.

The job has taken months, due mainly to the Cole trio's playing schedule which doesn't include a Los Angeles date until late Spring. Every item has been custom-built by the Douglas office with the Coles constantly consulted.

Other side of master bedroom shows off white fireplace, white satin armchairs with pink trim. Writing table is leather-topped. Portrait is of Marie Cole.



Continued on Next Page

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Dining room (30' x 16') has long, modern silverleaf table lighted in center by soft glow-light and 12 matching chairs upholstered in butter yellow antique satin. Floor is green-stained. Tropical painting on wall is by hand.

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MOtif of the new King Cole home will be "California Modern" with rooms blending in combination colors. Simplicity is keynoted in the use of black lacquer pieces in many of the downstairs rooms, particularly the living room which has black lacquer coffee tables with gun metal glass tops, marbleized black lacquer pedestals and two black lacquer modern Regency chairs with tight button-tufted seats in butterfly yellow satin. Particular favorite of the Coles is a modern Chinese painting on a 4x4½ foot mirror that lights its patterns with neon tubing.



Main front hallway with curving balustrade has modern black lacquer mirror chest with gun metal lustre lamps and silverleaf shades. Hall chair is in deep rose. Entrance to house is big oak-panelled door.

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Front of 12-room Cole house faces exclusive Muirfield Road, where residents include several millionaires. Furnishing new Cole house is taking months.



Three-car garage with rumpus room on top floor is being built next to house. Music room, nursery and guest room are still in planning stage.



Rumpus room done in knotty pine will have poker table, built-in bar, piano, pool table, small bandstand and window seats overlooking garden.



Layout of rooms in house are shown by servant Chauncy Shaw who with his wife Wohona keep the house in running order when Coles are on the road.

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From African cacao tree to U.S. chocolate candy, cocoa beans are big business that nets millions for British Colonial Office. Cocoa harvest is in November when pods are golden orange. Each tree yields about 20 pods. Extracted beans when dried weigh about two pounds and give just about one pound of cocoa.

# CHOCOLATE

## Two-thirds of world's supply is grown by industrious Negro cocoa farmers of West Africa

FLUSCIOUS rich brown chocolate, favorite flavor of the bobby-soxers, bane of the obese housewife and No. 1 bribe of overseas GIs, is Africa's gift to America's sweet tooth. Two out of every three Hershey bars, chocolate eclairs and fudge sundaes pass through Negro hands in the shape of cocoa beans before they reach the U. S. bakery counter or soda fountain.

On some 400,000 small peasant plots of from one to five acres in West Africa, industrious Negro farmers raise more lima-sized white cocoa beans than all the other dozen-odd tropical countries with cocoa trees. Cocoa growing in British West Africa was developed purely as an indigenous enterprise of native black farmers completely independent of the English. It was exactly 70 years ago that a Negro

laborer, Tetteh Quarsie, brought some beans from Spanish Africa (for many years Spain had a world monopoly on cocoa) and distributed them among his friends. Twelve years later two burlap bags full of raw cocoa beans were sent to London to start a trade that last year had grown to 400,000 tons.

Although the British did not start the cocoa business in Africa, they are today smacking their lips over the sweet profits reaped by virtue of their government control over prices and marketing of African cocoa. All told the world's bill for nibbling at chocolate and drinking cocoa comes to more than a half-billion dollars annually (the U. S. foots half the bill), but out of every dollar, less than three cents goes to the lowly colored cocoa farmer on the Gold Coast and in Nigeria. The Colonial

Office set a \$300 per ton price to be paid African cocoa farmers, then proceeded to collect up to \$740 a ton in New York.

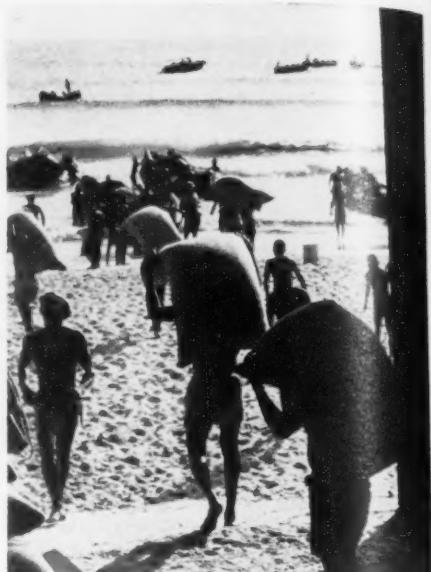
African cocoa farmers, more advanced than most Africans in living standards, have been as vocal in their protests against the British profiteering as the American consumer. Once before back in 1937 the cocoa farmers protested against unfair price-fixing by the 13 private companies then handling cocoa buying. For eight months they staged a boycott, refusing to sell their beans. They won their point until the war when the government moved in. However, the Colonial Office remembers the 1937 strike and has boosted next year's price for farmers 60 per cent. However, the corner kid in America will still be paying the inflated price of two cents for his Tootsie Roll in 1949.



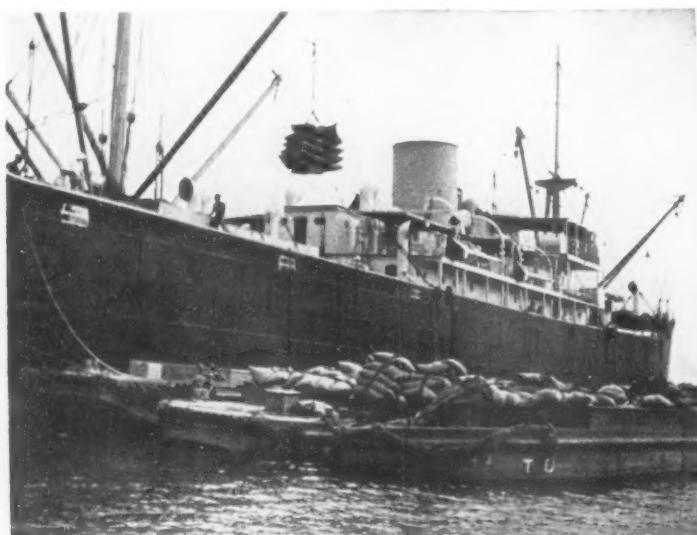
**Extracting cocoa beans** from pulp-filled pods split open by sharp machete is family affair. After fermenting periods beans are washed, dried and sacked for market.



**Weighed and tested**, beans bring farmers only 21 cents per pound. Average farm produces ton of cocoa beans (half ton cocoa), less than \$50 after many taxes.



**100 pound sacks of cocoa beans** are carried to surf boats from warehouse. Product is hauled over Africa's 7000 miles of super highway to seaports by trucks.



**Cargo ships** take over 50 per cent of world's cocoa supply to New York harbor. It was Hernando Cortes, Spanish explorer and conqueror of Mexico, who first introduced cocoa to Europe, bringing it into the Spanish court from Latin America.

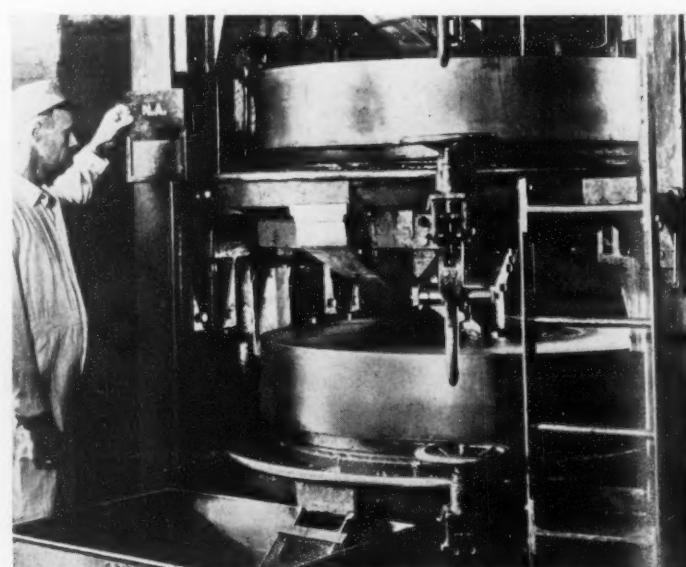


**Roasting cocoa beans** after cleaning is done in huge rotary gas-fired drums at controlled temperatures to bring out aroma and flavor. Accidental roasting of cocoa seed by Aztec Indian in Mexico centuries ago led to discovery of bean's food value.

## NEGROES GROW MOST COCOA,

**T**WO CENTURIES ago chocolate was banned in the court of France's prodigal Louis XIV because it was too expensive (\$3 a pound). Before long—if present price trends and cocoa tree disease continues—Americans will have to clamp down a similar curb on their chocolate budget. The British, who netted a neat profit of more than \$25,000,000 on their cocoa operations during the five war years, are standing pat on prices. They claim they are setting the money aside to guarantee a stable price for cocoa farmers during slump years if and when they come. And America's candy bill—of which chocolate is the biggest part—is still topping a billion dollars.

All indications are that while world demand for the tasty tidbits will continue high, the supply is going to go down. Some experts even talk of cocoa tree extinction in another 20 years. Only a few tropical places in the world are adaptable to the growing of the crop and in many of these areas the dread swollen shoot disease is killing off one out of every ten trees. The disease has cut Gold Coast cocoa production by 100,000 tons in ten years and is spreading swiftly while British biologists look vainly for some remedy. Brazil and Trinidad, once top



**Grinding cocoa nibs** (inner meats) of bean after removing shells liquefies cocoa butter, producing liquid mass of unsweetened or cooking chocolate. Chocolate with half fat removed, ground and sifted is cocoa.



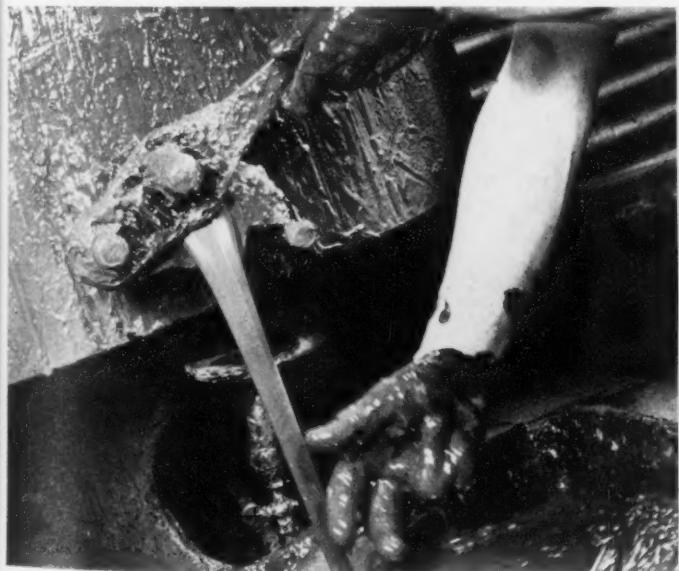
Surf boats and lighters laden with cocoa beans battle heavy breakers as they put out for cargo ships anchored mile from shore. Perpetual surf and absence of harbors prevent big ships from coming into port. Accra and Lagos are leading African ports.

## BUT U. S. FIRMS ARE LILY WHITE

cocoa producers in the world, were almost pushed off the cocoa map by tree disease. Tropical America until 1900 produced 80 per cent of the world's supply of cocoa.

Another threat to the livelihood of the three million British West Africans (average annual income: \$52) now engaged in the cocoa industry is the U. S. determination to break the John Bull monopoly. First step has been the planting of more than a million cocoa trees in Liberia by the U.S.-financed Liberia Company. Other cocoa-planting projects are also under way in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

America which was 50 years behind Europe in opening its first chocolate factory (Walter Baker & Co. at Dorchester, Mass. in 1780) today has unchallenged world supremacy not only in making chocolate but also in eating it. However, although Negroes grow most of the world's supply, manufacture is virtually a lily-white occupation. The world's biggest plant at Hershey, Pa. has only a handful of Negroes among its 3,000 employees—and these mostly in menial jobs. And the Hershey Industrial School, set up by the founder Milton Hershey and caring for 1,200 orphan boys, admits only "normal white orphan boys."



Testing temperature of rich chocolate running out of melting machine is important but gooey job. Chocolate and cocoa demands have grown five-fold since its introduction to African soil. Prices have increased ten-fold in that same period.

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# COTTON CLUB GIRLS

**M**OST FAMED Negro night club in America was Harlem's sleek, exotic Cotton Club. When it closed its doors for good in 1940, forced to the wall by bitter bickering and wanton spending by its owners, the Cotton Club left behind a reputation for being the headquarters of the most beautiful Negro women to be found anywhere in the world. They were the stately, shapely, ravishingly-pretty young ladies who made up the famous Cotton Club chorus girls.

Today many of the 150 Cotton Club girls that worked in the line during its 12 years in Harlem and downtown have made good either as movie, theater and night club stars and as wives of the wealthy and famous. Others have faded and "disappeared" into big city life. Most have settled down to tranquil domestic lives.

Striking it richest was ex-chorine Lena Horne, who turned up at an audition one Autumn afternoon in 1933 at the old club at 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. She was hired as a "likely prospect" by producer Clarence Robinson, developed into the highest-paid Negro in show business in 1948. Good fortune in another direction was attained by Peggy Griffiths, whose light color aroused much controversy regarding her racial identity. She married a rich New Jersey judge and retired to the sumptuous security of a country estate, withdrawing completely from Negro life. At least two other Cotton Club girls achieved considerable success in movies and on Broadway—as white performers. Their former colleagues keep their secret faithfully.



**Lena Horne**, perhaps the top Negro name in show business today, quit Brooklyn's Girls' High School at 16 to join the Cotton Club chorus line. She stayed three years, learned how to sing from Noble Sissle, eventually became movie star.



**Most famous showgirl line** of the old uptown Cotton Club was this 1933 lineup. In the grace the Cotton Club line and now frequently in Duke Ellington's company; Peggy Griffeth; Ethel Moses, who married a Long Island factory worker; Lena Horne, who achieved Boujai, at present a night club cashier; and Estrelita Brooks, now a member of the comedy



**Ruby Allen Dallas**, smallest girl to work in line with Lena Horne, was in chorus from 1934 until the club folded. She married in 1938 but separated from her husband to become a professional model, posing frequently for E. Simms Campbell.



**Margaret Cheraux Boujai**, who started in chorus in 1931 and stayed until club shut, studied drafting during World War II and worked in war plant. For last three years she has been a cashier at Tondaleyo's Melody Room, managed by one of her former fellow-chorines.



In the  
at time were (l. to r.) Bea Ellis, tallest and some say most beautiful woman ever to  
er married a wealthy judge; Ruby Allen Dallas, now a model for artist E. Simms Camp-  
of any Cotton Club girl; Evelyn Shephard Fuller, now a housewife; Margaret Chereaus  
as and Estrelita.



**Hyacinthe Curtis**, a Georgia girl who came to New York in 1934 seeking a stage career, was in Cotton Club chorus five years. She later worked at Club Zanzibar and with the USO during the war years. The ex-chorus girl is now a dental technician after a technical course at school.



**Mildred Dixon**, one of the "originals" who played with Duke Ellington show in 1928, was chorus girl for three years. Since 1945 she has been office manager of Tempo Music, Inc., sheet music publishing firm.



**Evelyn Shephard Fuller**, who started with chorus in 1930 and stayed eight years, is now a housewife married to Harlem bar owner Jack Fuller. "I loved the Cotton Club," she re-  
s. "because the girls were so wonderful. We were more like sisters than co-workers."



**Fifth Avenue ribbon salesgirl** is Carolyn Rich Henderson, (1936-39), who started dancing career in musical, *Fast And Furious* and later joined Cotton Club line. She was married for several years to physician, is now separated.



**Former Cotton Club producer** Clarence Robinson, now directing chorus girls at Greenwich Village's Savannah Club, believes oldtime Cotton Club lines had most beautiful Negro women in history and were far more attractive than current crop.

**Typical Cotton Club beauty** of past years was Lillian Powell, one of the "originals" in "high yaller" line. Ex-chorines say they are sworn to secrecy on present whereabouts, but she is reported in West, flies into New York for "good time" occasionally.



**Two top-name Cotton Club alumnae** are Isabel Powell, ex-wife of Rep. A. Clayton Powell who was singer and shake dancer from 1930 to 1933, and Bessie Buchanan, 1929-31 singing ingenue who married Savoy Ballroom co-owner Charles Buchanan.

## CHORINES HAD TO FIT RIGID COLOR STANDARD

**K**OWN far and wide for its extravagantly-staged floor shows and fancy prices, the Cotton Club was for 12 years the symbol of fast-paced night life in America, the apex of the show world. Performers vied for work in its lavish shows, considered themselves at the top of the heap once they were in.

The Cotton Club is important historically for having brought such present-day stars as Bill Robinson, Ethel Waters, Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington to the nation's attention. But the performers who brought the club its far-flung fame even more than name principals were the young ladies in the chorus line with their sinuous curves, flashing smiles and fetching faces.

The chorus contained the cream of gorgeous womanhood in Negro America. Glamour plus was what the producers of Cotton Club shows wanted in their chorus lines and glamour is what they got—at \$60 a week. The chorus and show girls employed by the "aristocrat of night clubs" had to be of a certain complexion—nothing darker than a light olive tint. Most of the early Cotton Club showgirls, now reverently referred to by the younger alumnae as "the originals," were light enough in color to pass for white, and frequently did.

Not until 1932 was the extreme "high yaller" color standard relaxed

to permit the entrance into the chorus of brown-hued girls.

While Florenz Ziegfeld was "glorifying" white American women in his million-dollar extravaganzas, Clarence Robinson, a trim, suave perfectionist who produced many of the Cotton Club's most successful shows, was glamorizing the American Negro girl in history-making fashion. A rather astute authority on female beauty—any shade—Robinson auditioned literally thousands of girls clamoring for a chance to join the Cotton Club line. He estimates that barely 150 made the grade.

"Many were called but few were chosen," he wryly recalls. "Why, we'd even bring girls from California and Texas and have to send them back, because they weren't right, either in terms of looks, dancing ability, or both."

Robinson insists: "They don't come that beautiful any more, it seems. Main reason why so few beautiful Negro girls are seen in show business these days is a lack of job opportunities. There's no place for them to work, consequently, fewer and fewer beautiful colored girls are attracted to the business."

Qualifications for the Cotton Club chorus lines were as follows: 1. Beauty; 2. Height: 5 feet, 5 inches; 3. Weight: 120 pounds; 4. A little rhythm and knowledge of body movement; 5. Age: not over 21.



**STILL IN ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS** are Muriel Gaines (1931-32) and Wilhelmina "Tondeleyo" Gray (1932-39). Muriel is currently singer at Tony Le Ruban Bleu in New York, while "Tondeleyo" is manager at Harlem Melody Room.



**HOSTESS** at Harlem's Silver Meteor is Vivian Brown Jackson (1936-39), now married to Eddie Jackson of the Charioteers. They have a son, 8. She and twin sister Hilda danced in same line. Hilda is now housewife in Buffalo, N. Y.



**HOUSEWIFE** is Ethel Sissle Gordon (1937-39), now married to attorney Walter L. Gordon, Jr., of Los Angeles. She was divorced from band leader Noble Sissle in 1947 with two children in her custody.



**HOSIERY SALESMAN** is Billie Bow Marshall (1929-31), who got dancing start at Connie's Inn. Since leaving show business, she has been married twice, and now sells hosiery for Real silk Hosiery Mills.



**MOTHER** of two youngsters is Edith Cue Hodges (1936-38), married to alto sax player Johnny Hodges of the Duke Ellington band. They met in Cotton Club in 1937 while she was in chorus, married two years later.



**VAUDEVILLE "STRAIGHT" WOMAN** for past 12 years after leaving Cotton Club chorus, Vivian Harris (1929-35) has played opposite Rochester, Eddie Green, Pigmeat Markham, Dusty Fletcher and currently John Mason.



**HOUSEWIFE** is Maudine Simmons Sykes (1934-35), who married Chicago Brass Rail owner Nelson Sykes five years ago. She went into Cotton Club line from Los Angeles spot, later played Chicago Swingland Cafe (renamed Rhumboogie).



**Darkest girl** ever to work in Cotton Club chorus was Lucille Wilson (1932-40), now married to trumpet star Louis Armstrong. Precedent of maintaining uniform color scheme was cracked in 1932 when she was hired.



**Cotton Club Girls**, association of former chorines, listens to a report by secretary Carolyn Rich Henderson. Meetings are held in office of welterweight champ Ray Robinson, whose wife, Edna Mae Holley, was formerly in Cotton Club line.

## COTTON CLUB KEPT NEGRO GUESTS OUT

DURING ITS nine years as the dean of Harlem night life, the Cotton Club catered to a well-heeled clientele that was almost exclusively white. With rare exceptions, it barred Negro trade. W. C. Handy, composer of *The St. Louis Blues*, was once excluded when he tried to enter the club in the company of Gene Buck, then president of the A.S.C.A.P. Ironically enough, Handy's own music was then being featured in the club's show.

When it moved downtown to the present location of the Latin Quarter, the Cotton Club liberalized its admission policy slightly, to allow Negroes of "the better class" to book reservations from time to time.

To most of the chorus girls, the club's Jim Crow policy was a matter of casual indifference. Some few did openly criticize the exclusion of members of their own race, but such sentiments were not too popular.

On the whole, most of the former chorus girls who displayed their lissome limbs three times a night for months on end, look back on their experience with deep nostalgia.

"It was wonderful being a chorus girl at the Cotton Club," Carolyn Rich Henderson, one of the girls, now a salesgirl in a Fifth Avenue department store, says. "The girls were so nice to work with. We worked steadily, even through the depression, and got good pay. Then it was a real distinction to belong to the Cotton Club line. You could get a dancing job solely on the strength of your experience in the club. And wherever you went people pointed you out as the highest type of glamour. Then, too, you acquired a certain kind of poise in that chorus line that never left you. It was worth it, for that alone. If I could, I'd do it all over again!"

For a sizeable number of ex-Cotton Club girls, leaving the dancing business has meant falling out of condition and a gradual increase in weight. Frequently the result has been the slow disappearance of once tantalizingly slim figures. Very few, though, have gotten large in the fat sense. Catherine Stevenson, an ample girl in her Cotton Club heyday, has acquired new poundage gracefully, carries it with dignity and poise in her current job as supervisor of wayward girls at the Brooklyn Training School for Delinquent Girls. Bea Ellis, once the heftiest showgirl in the club, has actually become slimmer.

Adelaide Marshall, now living in serene security in New Rochelle, N. Y., can no longer claim one of the most gorgeous figures in show business. Years of soft living and good eating have wrought heavy changes in her body, at one time one of the shapeliest in the showgirls' line.

Others, like Ruby Dallas, artist's model, and Mitzi Coleman Reddick and Cleo Hayes, both of whom still earn a living dancing, have kept their figures youthful and trim by regular conditioning and work.

The early Cotton Club chorus was unique for having several unusual sister combinations in it. Probably the most striking of these were the Moses sisters, three in number, who worked in the line from 1928 to 1933. At one period all three girls, Ethel, Julia and Lucia, were dancing in the chorus line. Stunning, vivacious and intelligent, the Moses sisters were fair enough in complexion to be "white" if they had wanted to cross the color line.

Today two of the girls, Ethel and Lucia, are married and living in Long Island homes. Julia was the first of the sisters to become a Cotton Club girl, joining the chorus in 1928. She quit in 1930 and danced in a number of shows and nightclubs on Broadway and in Harlem. Later she went to Europe with Lew Leslie's *Blackbirds*. She is now employed in the retouching department of the American Photographic Company in New York City, is unmarried.

Ethel, now the wife of Frank Ryan, left show business in 1935 never to return. The Ryans have no children, live quietly but happily in Jamaica.

Lucia married George Rickson, a pianist who has been playing at the Gamecock, an East 44th Street spot in Manhattan for the past 11 years. They own their own home in Jamaica, Long Island.

Ruby Richards, one of the youngest and certainly one of the most beautiful of the Cotton Club alumnae, has been markedly successful in real estate deals and has become what is most certainly a rarity—a retired young ex-chorus girl of apparently independent means. She danced in the chorus during the last year of the Cotton Club's career, quit show business when it closed and studied for a while at New York University. With a little sound advice and some solid assistance, she made a few quite profitable investments in Harlem real estate. She emerged with a tidy sum, part of which she invested in a 160-acre estate near New London, Conn. Recently she sold this property and bought another country house at Pompton Lakes, N. J.

Last October several former Cotton Club dancing girls, who had been seeing each other pretty frequently since the club folded, decided it would be a good idea to form an association of all the girls who had ever worked in the Cotton Club chorus or as showgirls. The idea, they agreed, would be to resume the good fellowship they enjoyed in the dressing room and on the dancing floor, and to perpetuate what many feel is a really important tradition in American show business. Seven meetings have been held since then, and the group, now formally named The Cotton Club Girls, has a membership approaching 40. Several of the alumnae have written from places as distant as Chicago and Hollywood, expressing interest in the club and enclosing the \$5 joining fee.



Making call in auto to give farm information to soil tillers is typical "special delivery" duty performed by Oklahoma county agent Douglass Lilly. He trekked 16,000 miles on like trips last year. Nation's oldest agent, Negro T. M. Campbell, who began work in 1906 at Tuskegee Institute, made first calls in horse and wagon.

## COUNTY AGENTS

### Negro farmers in 17 states grow bigger and better crops with their helpful advice

**I**N THE RURAL WORLD of husked corn and fat porkers, the county farm agent is a sort of Moses to countless farmers around the nation. Big guns in the federal government's year-round drive to improve national farm methods, they teach soil tillers in the 48 states, Alaska and Puerto Rico "the right way" in all phases of farming from raising cotton to milking cows. They make about 3,500,000 calls to farms each year demonstrating new techniques to put more food on the nation's dinner tables.

County demonstration agents have been on the job since 1914 when Congress first set aside funds for their work under the Cooperative Extension Act. Under the federal law, Texas got the first agent. Negroes broke into service two years later when T. M. Campbell (now with U. S. Department of Agriculture) went to work in Alabama and John B. Pierce in Virginia. Today the small army of 4,407 agents boasts some 351 Negroes who are daily taking the benefits of their college training to colored farmers in 17 states.

Typical of these Negro agents is 38-year-old, Texas-born Douglass Plato Lilly, who is serving 915 colored farmers in Oklahoma's Okmulgee County. Lilly puts in about 12 hours each day, writing letters to answer farm queries, working with 4-H clubs and holding demonstrations on the farm.

A stickler for showing off the newest patterns in farming, Lilly has one routine which has paid off in dividends to Okmulgee's Negro farmers. He tells these farm workers, "Don't count on any single crop." His warning, backed by sound examples, has been the chief reason for shift of emphasis from staple cotton to cattle, peanuts and corn. Better than 60 per cent of Okmulgee's Negro farmers are now raising livestock in addition to cotton. About 162 are selling cream, butter and milk to creameries. All are operating in the black and give full credit to Lilly.

On the job in Okmulgee since back in 1939 (except for two years in World War II service), Lilly has seen Negro farmers increase their farm-home holdings by more than 150 to the present 405 figure. Says he, "It's an interesting experience to see these farmers, who when on relief several years back had no farming equipment and little livestock, now own farms with nice dwellings and barns. They are now the leading tillers in their community. They are doing a very good job of diversified farming."

Duties for the county agent are full the year around. A great deal of Lilly's time is spent in 4-H club work where the most up-to-date methods of farming are taught youths. He figures, "Sixty per cent of my time is devoted

to 4-H duties. But I get a kick out of the work because boys and girls are deeply interested in these activities."

Okmulgee has 38 4-H clubs with coaches and assistants spread over the town's school system. The teachers and county superintendent go all out to back the idea, allow 4-H'ers to meet on regular school time and give financial aid.

Lilly feels that the future of Negro farming depends on 4-H work, but he adds, "There are more boys in Okmulgee County than I can take care of. The 400 boys in 4-H work create duties which I can handle only with the help of an assistant county agent."

Besides duties with farmers and 4-H'ers, the Negro agent works with a home demonstration emissary, Spelman graduate A. L. Anderson. This woman agent, like Lilly under U. S. supervision, passes out hints to rural women on newest methods in homemaking.

Lilly's other close partner in Okmulgee's farm extension work is white county agent Harold Hames who has separate office in Federal Building because of Oklahoma's segregation law. On common problems, the twosome get together. Lilly says, "Hames is a big help. And he is to a large extent responsible for the fine relationship between Negro and white farmers around Okmulgee."

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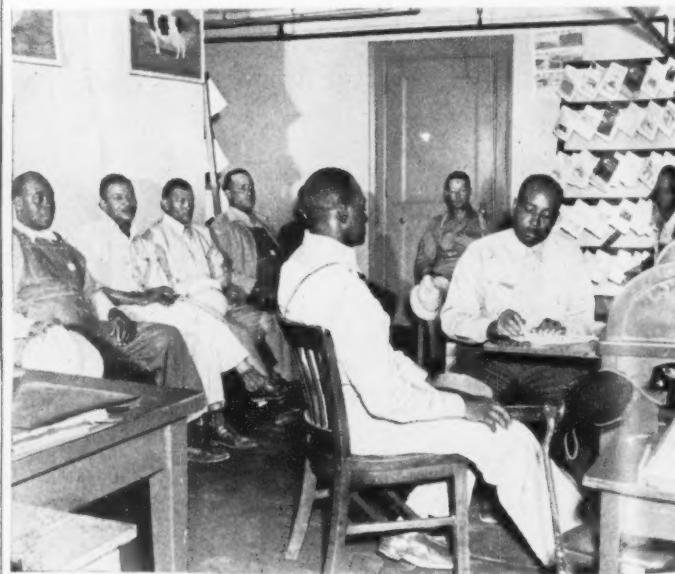
## AGENT LILLY SEES FUTURE

**DOUGLASS LILLY** got his urge to work as county agent while he was getting set to study liberal arts courses at Prairie View College in his native Hempstead, Texas. He recalls, "In 1927 I attended an interscholastic meeting at the college with 4-H and National Farm Association boys. There was a contest on several phases of agriculture. I entered the plowing contest with 40 boys from various parts of Texas, won first place, a \$5 gold piece and college scholarship for plowing the straightest, most level furrows."

Lilly's ambition then was to become a veterinarian. "But I came from a family of seven," he explains, "and my father was not able to keep me in school that long and give the children an education too."

Like most other county agents, the husky Negro holds a bachelor degree in agriculture, which he picked up at Langston University after graduating in liberal arts from Kentucky State in 1932. He majored in agricultural education and animal husbandry.

Lilly has found no resentment from Negro farmers because of his college training. Instead he finds them "very cooperative." Says he: "They attend meetings, community and county-wide, and use my office as headquarters for any type of farm information needed."



Receiving office calls from farmers is regular Saturday routine for Lilly. Last year, U. S. agent handled more than 21,000 such visits. Lilly also conducts a twice-monthly, farm-radio show on local station.



As co-signer, Lilly watches 4-H'er sign bank note for loan to buy \$15 pig. Lad repaid bank in six months with \$105 garnered from prize-winning porker. Negro 4-H'ers in nation number more than 300,000.

## RE GOOD FOR NEGRO FARMERS

Under Lilly's keen eye, things are looking up for Negro farmers in Okmulgee's farm country. As the brown-skin agent sees it, "The future of the Negro farmer in our area looks good. His only drawback can be himself." He adds, "Negroes are now buying more farms and improving them. With the help of the young, educated farmers, colored farmers in Okmulgee are set for a better farm life."

While the picture looks good in Okmulgee for Negro farmers, Douglass is not resting on his laurels. He still remembers the Dust Bowl of the 1930's and never neglects to remind farm hands that terraces (raised level of earth), slopes or contours help prevent soil erosion. During past two years, Lilly has worked with farmers in building 65 miles of terraces to hold back run-off water which carries away valuable top soil. More than 130 farms have been improved by the work.

The agent encourages Negro farmers to get U. S. Agriculture Department aid to ensure protection against starvation conditions which came with rural America's last drought. Lilly points out, "The doors are wide open for Negroes to share in farm assistance that is coming from the Federal Government. They have the same opportunity that anyone else has to get assistance from these agencies."



Pointing out superior grade of grass grown on treated plot is one Lilly scheme for showing gains in scientific farming. Agents are credited with boosting Negro farm ownership in South to more than 16,000.



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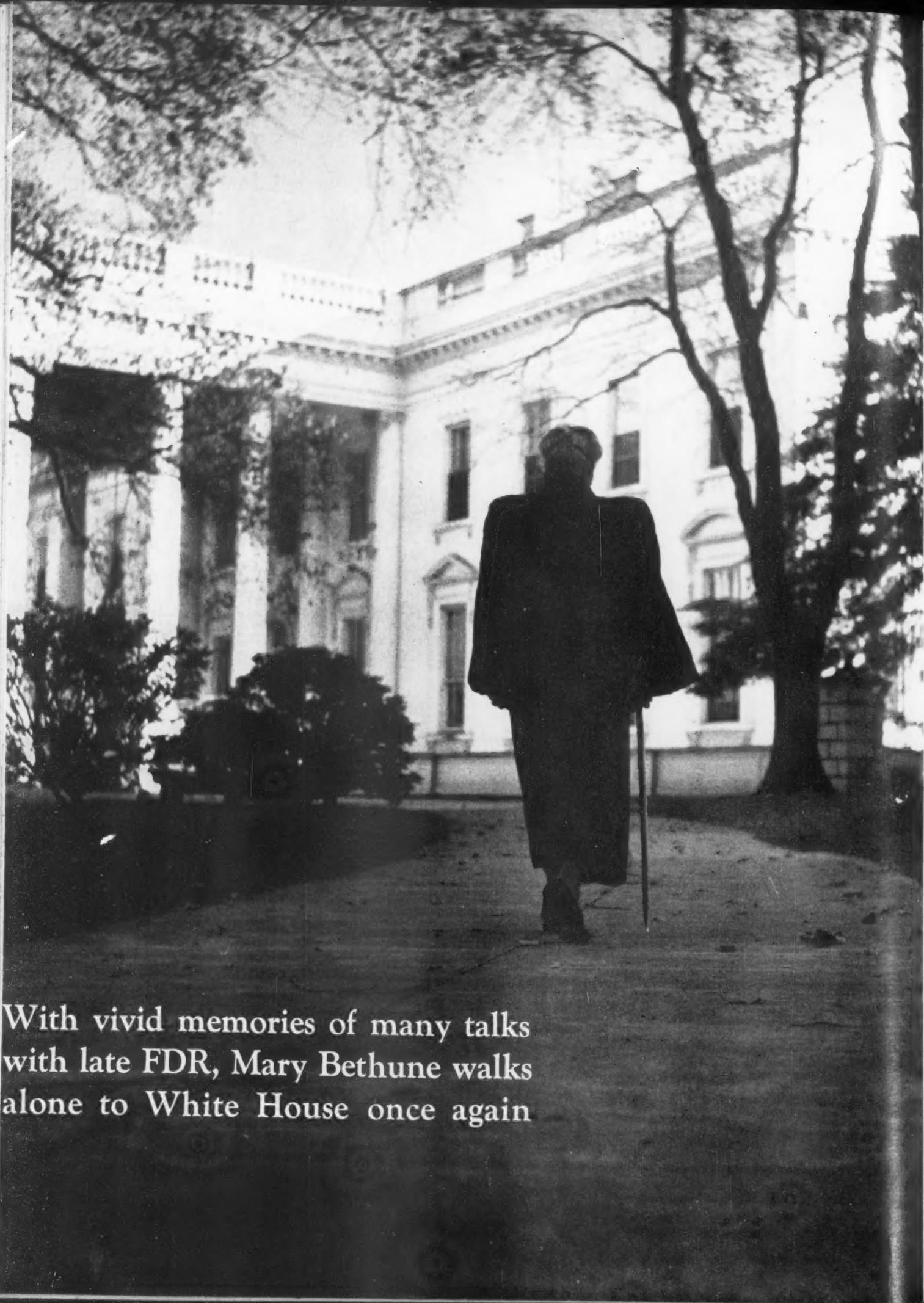
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With vivid memories of many talks with late FDR, Mary Bethune walks alone to White House once again

# My Secret Talks With FDR

BY MARY McLEOD BETHUNE

Probably no Negro in America has ever been as close a confidante and adviser of a U. S. President on racial affairs as Mary McLeod Bethune. During the long New Deal administration of President

Franklin D. Roosevelt, she was called upon regularly to come to the White House to confer with and advise FDR. She has long been a warm friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. Once Minority Affairs Director

of the National Youth Administration, Mrs. Bethune is still today head of the National Council of Negro Women and known far and wide as the First Lady of Negro America.

IT WILL BE four years this month since Franklin D. Roosevelt died. In those four years his enemies and detractors have worked incessantly to turn the minds of the people against what he stood for and did, have sought generally to tear down the great edifice of social legislation and true democratic practice which FDR built up in his lifetime.

By and large, though, the stature of Franklin D. Roosevelt has grown immensely in the four years since his death. Today he ranks second only to Lincoln as an outstanding figure of genius and achievement in our national history. Four years after he breathed his last in Warm Springs, he still dominates our national political life, the one personality who charged this nation with a new energy and gave common people hope and dignity during some of the most critical years through which the country has passed.

I knew Franklin D. Roosevelt as a friend and as a political leader. I talked with him personally on scores of occasions, heard him laugh at a particularly funny story, or ruminate in silence over a grave piece of news. I have seen FDR when he was seriously ill, and when his voice was hoarse and full of suffering. I have looked into his face, gaunt and ashen from the frightful burdens of state and the exertions of an arduous schedule, and my heart has been filled with pity and sorrow for a great man who was working himself to death. I have chatted with FDR in the bright summer sunshine on the lawn of his Hyde Park family home and been filled with joy by his bright humor and strong optimism. I knew FDR over the years when he was fighting reaction in Albany and Washington, when he struck out at poverty through the New Deal and made enemies of the "economic royalists."

I heard his great eloquence denounce greed and intolerance from one end of the land to the other, and I discussed with him the problems of my people in many an off-the-record private talk held in the President's study in the White House. I loved that voice and was thrilled by it on innumerable occasions. To me it represented the voice of sanity and progress and humanism, and when it was stilled forever on April 12, 1945, I felt that the

peoples of the world had lost one of their finest spokesmen and that the earth itself was a poorer place thereby.

America needs his kind of idealism today when war and depression face us as imminent possibilities. The world has need of his kind of leadership with all of its courage and clarity.

There are those who criticize FDR's slowness to move against basic evils in our midst and his obvious dislike of extreme methods of achieving his objectives. But it is important to understand that his methods were those of a man of great experience and insight. He was a man of great depth of mind and seldom made rash moves. I had many opportunities to study the man at work and in the midst of a crisis, and I was struck by the calm, exact, almost mathematical way in which he thought and moved.

I often expressed to him my impatience with the slowness of the democratic process. I remember going to see him one evening in 1943. I was feeling particularly distressed that day over reports I had received on flagrant bias shown against Negroes seeking to enter the National Youth Administration in certain parts of the South. I called him direct that afternoon, and must have sounded awfully agitated.

"Anything wrong?" he asked in that fine strong voice.

"Yes," I answered, "quite a lot."

"Come over after dinner, Mrs. Bethune," he said, "I'll be glad to see you."

I entered the White House in a grim mood, and was escorted upstairs by an attendant who took me up in the President's private elevator.

"He's waiting for you now," the attendant said with a smile. I walked down the hallway to the President's private study and found him waiting for me with a pleasant smile on his face. Sitting in his chair near the door, he waved a greeting with his hand which held his famous cigarette holder.

"Come in, Mrs. Bethune," he called out. "I'm always glad to see you. And do you know why?" I said I didn't.

"Because you always come for others and never for yourself," he said.

His face relaxed and his eyes, though still bright, were searching my features. "How are



Longtime friends Mary Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt have worked together in many causes. The former First Lady often ran White House benefits for Bethune-Cookman College, of which Mrs. Bethune was president.

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## MY SECRET TALKS *Continued*

you," he asked gently. "What can I do for you?"

I told him about the situation in NYA in the South, about the lack of training facilities for Negroes in certain Southern states and of the refusal of state governments to allocate funds for Negro NYA activities. Negroes could not enter the technical training schools established under NYA.

I was visibly disturbed and made the President aware of how I felt. I caught his arm and clung to him. "The Negro people need all of the strength that you can give, Mr. President, in opening up opportunities for them," I told him.

He looked at me seriously for a few seconds, and then said, "Mrs. Bethune, I shall not fail you. I'll see Aubrey Williams tomorrow, and everything that can be done to open up these sections of the South to NYA training for Negroes will be done. Your people and all minorities shall have their chance."

Altogether, I suppose, we talked for 40 minutes, touching on such subjects as anti-Negro discrimination, and the progress our forces were making in the war abroad. As I left, I shook his hand warmly and told him:

"Mr. President, the common people feel they have someone in the White House who cares." The President smiled gratefully and waved a goodbye.

## Roosevelt Had Own Plan Versus Jim Crow

**T**HAT WAS not the last time that I felt impelled to speak out strongly to the President on conditions confronting Negroes in the South. More than once I proposed pretty drastic steps to end the hideous discriminations and second-class citizenship which make the South a blot upon our democracy. But FDR usually demurred, pointing out that a New Reconstruction in the South would have to keep pace with democratic progress on a national scale. He strove to bring the whole country into a unified understanding of freedom. He tried to hold the whole country together so that the whole might be one.

But President Roosevelt did not complete his work. Had he lived I am convinced that he would have launched new, bold offensives against bigotry and Jim Crow everywhere. But it would have been according to *his* plan.

Frequently I would ask him with some impatience why this couldn't be done at once or that done immediately. He would think awhile, and then say very carefully and patiently, "Mrs. Bethune, if we do that now, we'll hurt our program over there. We must do this thing stride by stride, but leaving no stone unturned."

FDR taught me much about practical politics and how important it is that we understand their meaning if we are to make progress in the political arena. My contact with him was one of the great experiences of my life.

He would say things that would remain with you for the rest of your life. Thus, one day, I think it was at a reception in 1940, he beckoned to me and opened up a conversation I shall always remember. "You know, Mrs. Bethune," he said, looking out of the window and yet speaking directly to me, "people like you and me are fighting, and must continue to fight, for the day when a man will be regarded as a man regardless of his race or faith or country. That day will come, but we must pass through perilous times before we realize it, and that's why it's so difficult today because that new idea is being born and many of us flinch from the thought of it. Justice must and will prevail."

That is why I believed so deeply in Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## How She Met Roosevelt's Mother

**M**Y FRIENDSHIP with FDR was based on more than personal regard for a great man. It flowed, to a large extent, from a long-standing acquaintanceship with the Roosevelt family, especially his mother, the late Mrs. James Roosevelt, one of the most gracious and genuine persons I have been privileged to know.

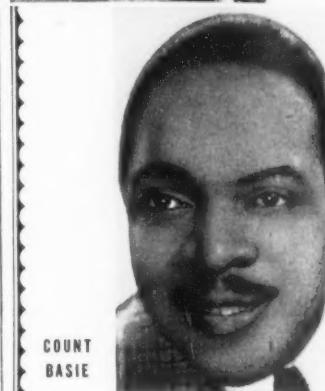
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## MY SECRET TALKS *Continued*

gave for representative women's leaders at the old Roosevelt family house in New York in 1924. I had just returned from a European tour and attended the luncheon as president of the National Association of Colored Women. Mrs. James Roosevelt, Sr., was present at the luncheon and it was there that I first met her.

I can still see the twinkle in Mrs. James Roosevelt's eyes as she noted the apprehensive glances cast my way by the Southern women who had come to the affair. Then she did a remarkable thing. Very deliberately, she took my arm and seated me to the right of Eleanor Roosevelt, in the seat of honor! I can remember, too, how the faces of the Negro servants lit up with pride when they saw me seated at the center of that imposing gathering of women leaders from all over the United States. From that moment my heart went out to Mrs. James Roosevelt. I visited her at her home many times subsequently, and our friendship became one of the most treasured relationships of my life. As a result of my affection for her mother-in-law, my friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt soon ripened into a close and understanding mutual feeling. She is today one of the dearest friends I have. Our lives have become deeply intertwined.

### Meets FDR During Formation Of NYA

STRANGE as it may seem I did not meet FDR until 1934 when, as Negro Affairs Director, I attended a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration held at the White House. I had been invited to become a member of the Advisory Committee upon its formation early that year.

I got to know FDR well during these Advisory Committee meetings which frequently were pretty intense affairs. The first meeting was unforgettable. FDR often referred to it in later conversations with me. The meeting had been called to review and report upon the first year's achievements of the National Youth Administration. I was asked to deliver a report on minority group activities. Speaking directly to the President, I told him what the NYA meant to minority groups. I told him that in many parts of the South the \$15 and \$20 monthly checks meant real salvation for thousands of Negro young people. I explained how we were working with the WPA authorities in providing adult education facilities for the parents of these young people.

"We are bringing life and spirit to these many thousands who for so long have been in darkness," I said. "I speak, Mr. President, not as Mrs. Bethune, but as the voice of 14,000,000 Americans who seek to achieve full citizenship. We want to continue to open doors for these millions."

*Continued on Next Page*

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After meeting with President, three of America's top Negro leaders leave White House. During New Deal administration, NAACP secretary Walter White, Mrs. Bethune and YMCA leader Channing Tobias met frequently with FDR.

### MY SECRET TALKS *Continued*

When I had finished, I saw that tears were coursing down President Roosevelt's cheeks. He leaned across the table and grasped my hands in both of his.

"Mrs. Bethune," he said, "I am glad I am able to contribute something to help make a better life for your people. I want to assure you that I will continue to do my best for them in every way." He choked a little. Tears flowed from his eyes. There was a stillness in the room for a moment and then the meeting dispersed. As I left the room, Aubrey Williams who was National Youth Administrator, placed his hand on my shoulder, and said:

"Mrs. Bethune, thanks to you, a marvelous impression has been made tonight for the cause we all represent."

Two weeks later I received a letter from the White House, informing me that the President wished to see me. I went to Washington and hurried to the office of Aubrey Williams. Aubrey was smiling broadly.

"I have wonderful news for you," he said. He told me that President Roosevelt had decided to set up an Office of Minority Affairs of NYA and that I was to be its administrator. I pleaded with Aubrey that I could not accept the appointment because of the great pressure of my work at the college.

"You'll just have to find someone else for the job," I told him.

Aubrey's face was grave. "I'm afraid you'll have to do it. Do you realize this is the first such post created for a Negro woman in the U.S.?" I was silent, realizing that here indeed was a heavy responsibility.

"You will have to do it," Aubrey repeated emphatically. It was not an easy decision to make. I thought of the splendid job Frances Perkins was doing in the Department of Labor, and Mary Anderson in the Children's Bureau of the same department, and I felt that if these talented white women were working at such responsible jobs at a time of national crisis I could do the same thing. I visualized dozens of Negro women coming after me, filling positions of high trust and strategic importance. God I knew, would give me the requisite strength, wisdom and administrative ability to do the job. I told Aubrey I would accept.

Later that day we went over to see the President. Aubrey told him of my decision. The President turned to me, beaming. "I have thought over very carefully the message you brought to me some weeks ago," he said, "and we have decided to open a department that Aubrey here has chosen to call, the Office of Minority Group Affairs. We have appointed you to administer this office. I want you to know that I do not believe anybody can do this work more acceptably than you can."

I said, "Thank you, Mr. President, for your thoughtfulness and

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## MY SECRET TALKS Continued

deep concern for my people and all minorities that need help. You have been most gracious in permitting me to share so deeply in such a great cause. In accepting this appointment, I assure you that I shall give it the best that I have and shall follow very closely the guiding hand of our great Administrator, Aubrey Williams, who is giving so fully of himself for this cause that is so dear to your heart."

FDR was visibly impressed. "Aubrey," he said, after a pause and looking in my direction, "Mrs. Bethune is a great woman. I believe in her because she has her feet on the ground; not only on the ground, but deep down in the ploughed soil." I shall never forget that compliment.

It was always pleasant and stimulating to work with Aubrey Williams. Aubrey is one of my favorite people whose faith in the liberal way has grown stronger with the years. He is, I am convinced, one of America's foremost fighting liberals who has made a very real contribution to the Negro's cause.

### How NYA Functioned

THE OFFICE of Minority Affairs functioned for 10 years and brought many tangible benefits to Negro young people throughout the country. It worked vigorously to erase race differentials operating in the NYA and to extend training and educational opportunities for Negroes. On higher education alone, our office distributed some \$100,000 yearly, mainly to the graduate schools of such institutions as Howard, Fisk, Atlanta Universities and many of the Northern universities where Negroes were studying. No government agency did more to stimulate higher education among Negroes than did the Office of Minority Group Affairs of the NYA.

President Roosevelt maintained a consistent interest in this phase of the NYA program and was once instrumental in actually saving it from total destruction by Congress. A Congressional Committee had earmarked our \$100,000 special higher education fund for elimination in a new sweeping economy program affecting such agencies as NYA and the WPA. There were long faces at the NYA headquarters in Washington. One morning Aubrey Williams told me of the real danger facing our program and suggested that I speak to FDR about it. I got his secretary, Matthew Connelly, on the phone at once and arranged an appointment for that very day.

I found the President in his office, looking a little worried, but still managing to greet me with a charming smile. I began by referring to the attempt to wipe out the \$100,000 fund for graduate training for Negroes and told him what a disaster that would be for the potential leaders of the Negro people who were seeking training in various fields. As I urged him to stop Congress from making the projected cuts in the NYA appropriations, I became so excited that I shook my finger in the President's face.

"Think what a terrible tragedy it would be for America," I cried, "if by this action by a committee of Congress, Negroes would be deprived of the leadership of skilled and trained members of their race!" Suddenly I realized what I was doing, and stopped, staring embarrassedly at my finger now pointing at the President's nose. I apologized for being so demonstrative.

"Oh Mr. President," I said, "I did not mean to become so emotional."

FDR smiled quietly, "I understand thoroughly, Mrs. Bethune," he said. "My heart is with you." After hearing him promise to "see what I can do," I left.

That week Congress voted to continue the full appropriation grant to our National Youth Administration program.

### Friendship With Mrs. Roosevelt

ONCE at a meeting of NYA administrative heads held with the President at Hyde Park in 1937, I had the pleasure of lunching with the Chief Executive and telling him more about the Negro's problems. As we talked, the President told me how important he considered youth to the future of the nation.

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## MY SECRET TALKS Continued

"We must continue to work to guarantee life and strength to American youth, Mrs. Bethune," he said. "We must equip them in body and mind with the necessary proportions to combat the problems of life."

The conversation turned to the South, and I told FDR how Negro youth were gradually being integrated into NYA programs there. He was very pleased. "I know something about the difficulties of work in the South," he said, "and I know you have the tact, common sense and courage to work these problems out. You know, it takes these qualities to handle these problems, and I think you have got them in abundance. I want you to know that you have meant more to our program than I can express in words. Aubrey thinks of you as his right hand. I want you to stand by us in the difficult times that are ahead of us."

As my work brought me more and more into contact with the President I became much better acquainted with his wife, whom I regard as one of the most distinguished Americans of our time and one of the great women of all time. My association with Eleanor Roosevelt has been one of the most enriching of my entire life. Our friendship has combined a deep, abiding understanding with a warm kinship that has been strengthened over the years.

We have travelled together all over this country, and have addressed all kinds of meetings from a hundred and one platforms from coast to coast. We have worked together to establish a cooperative interracialism on various college campuses, and have sponsored conferences on race relations in the heart of the South. My admiration for her liberal outlook and fighting courage has increased with the development of our friendship.

### First Lady Comes To Her House

LEANOR ROOSEVELT has done more to better race relations and to give the "human touch" to the affairs of state and the democratic struggle than any other woman I have known.

She and I have been closely associated in many things almost continuously since I arrived in Washington early in 1934 to assume my duties as head of the Office of Minority Affairs of the NYA. In the intervening years we have not hesitated to draw on each other's experience and counsel. We have had frequent consultations, either at my home on Vermont Avenue or at the White House or in New York at her Washington Square apartment, on such matters as Negro affairs, the political situation, women's problems, the South, my school, the National Council of Negro Women, and the international picture.

During FDR's years as President Mrs. Roosevelt held a series of meetings at the White House for the benefit of Bethune-Cookman College, at which I was introduced to selected groups of her friends and visiting dignitaries.

One afternoon in 1944 I received a telephone call from Mrs. Roosevelt, saying she wished to have a talk with me. I asked her whether I should meet her at the White House.

"Are you busy?" she asked.

"Well, just a little," I replied. "But I'll come over if you want me to."

"Stay where you are," she said, "I'll be over in a few minutes."

Twenty minutes later I happened to look out the window, and saw Mrs. Roosevelt striding briskly along Vermont Avenue. I gasped. She had walked over from the White House.

### Attends Huge Meeting At Bethune-Cookman College

ONE of the most stirring events in which Mrs. Roosevelt figured was a huge meeting held at Bethune-Cookman College in 1941. Mrs. Roosevelt was the main speaker, and over 20,000 persons had come from all over southern Florida to hear her. The sight of these many thousands of Southerners, white and black, mingling freely and democratically on the campus of a Negro college in Florida, was an unforgettable experience. Aubrey Williams, who was present, was terribly moved by



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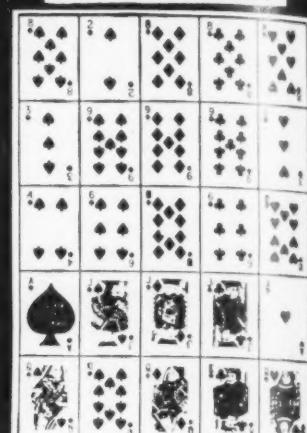
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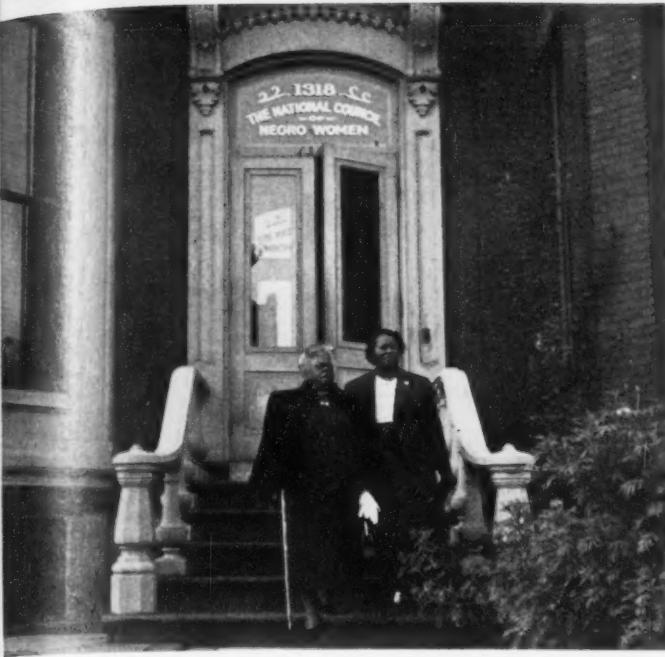
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Offices of National Council of Negro Women in Washington are virtual home for Mary Bethune, shown with secretary Arabella Denniston. She organized council in 1935. It has membership of 850,000, is now enlisting white women in its ranks.

### MY SECRET TALKS *Continued*

the scene. So were the score of public officials and representatives of every college in Florida who had come to pay their respects to the First Lady of the land.

On another occasion we were both scheduled to address a mass meeting in 1943 at the Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem, held in aid of Bethune-Cookman College. I was the first speaker, and as I reached the climax of my appeal for support of the college, my voice cracked and I began to cough badly. The audience became a little uneasy. Mrs. Roosevelt, who was sitting at the far end of the platform, got up at once, walked over to the table placed in the center and poured me a glass of water. She handed it to me, smiling graciously, and said, "Drink this. It will help."

It was a very dramatic gesture, full of simplicity and kindness.

A little over a year ago, Helen Gahagan Douglas, that fine liberal Congresswoman from California, gave a garden party at her Hollywood home for Eleanor Roosevelt and myself. Among the guests were many famous names in the film colony. Actors, writers, directors, producers. Toward the end of the afternoon, Mrs. Roosevelt brought Walter Wanger, the famous producer, over and introduced him to me.

"You know, Mr. Wanger," she said with a smile, "you ought to think seriously about making a film of Mrs. Bethune. Her career is one of the great romances of our time." I was flattered, but Mr. Wanger quickly caught the idea and said he would seriously look into the picture possibilities of such a theme.

Who wouldn't be proud to know such a woman. Who wouldn't feel thrilled, as I did on the night of March 3, 1948, when at a testimonial dinner given for me at the Hotel Commodore in New York, Eleanor Roosevelt told the audience: "I am happy to be counted among the people who can call Mrs. Bethune friend, and I hope that my friendship with her will be lasting and grow warmer and warmer as the years go by." I would like to add that this is also my most fervent hope.

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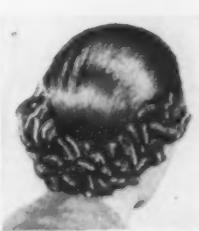
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## MY SECRET TALKS *Continued*

to devote more and more time to holding the line at home against the attacks of his domestic enemies made him literally one of the busiest men on earth. Yet I was able to see him practically any time I requested an audience. He always seemed to be able to find time to see people who, in his words, were "doing things." I was privileged to be considered a member of this circle. From 1933 to 1945 I saw FDR six or seven times each year. He never refused to see me, and I, realizing the tremendous burden he was carrying, never asked to see him unless on a matter of importance. He knew that and hence always granted my requests for conferences.

Sometimes he asked to see me. There were a number of these times when he wanted to discuss with me problems that were weighing on his mind, usually issues of direct concern to the Negro people. In such instances he would have either Marvin McIntyre or General Edwin M. Watson, his secretaries, call me.

"Mrs. Bethune," they would say, "the President would like to see you today. Can you come over this afternoon about 3?" I can't remember a single occasion when I was too busy to see the Chief Executive. One just couldn't turn down an urgent call from President Roosevelt to come over to the White House.

Our White House conferences almost always took place in the East Wing and were generally held in his office. Evenings we would talk in his study or sometimes in one of the reception rooms. The physical pattern of our conversations had a certain similarity about them. He would wave to me gaily with his widely-publicized cigarette holder. Sometimes I would enter as he was in the act of inserting a cigarette into the holder. He would look up, smile, and say, "Come in, Mrs. Bethune. I'm so glad to see you. Have a cigarette?"

He would thrust an open cigarette box toward me, nodding his head gently. "Do have a cigarette."

"Mr. President," I'd say, "I haven't learned to smoke yet." His brow would wrinkle a little, and he would search his mind quickly for his last impression of me.

"You haven't," he would say. "Well, I have a duty to perform yet, haven't I? I must teach you how to smoke." We would both laugh at that.

## Protests On Army Jim Crow

AT THE HEIGHT of World War II Franklin D. Roosevelt was frequently made aware of the widespread discontent among the Negro people arising from their restricted role in the war effort and repeated violence against Negro servicemen throughout the South. I had occasion to speak to him personally about these things. Several times in 1943 and 1944 I, together with Walter White, the executive secretary of the NAACP, and Dr. Channing Tobias, director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, conferred with the President on the mounting grievances of Negro servicemen.

"I'll press every button I can press to see that these conditions are cleaned up, that colored Americans in uniform are given equal protection of the law and that the unfortunate problems you speak of are overcome," he told us one day. Some changes did result from our protests and proposals. Certainly the projected Jim Crow rest and rehabilitation centers for returning combat veterans never materialized. That was one victory for which FDR must be given large credit. As soon as it was reported that the Army was planning to establish "separate" hotels in New York and Chicago to accommodate Negro overseas veterans, White, Tobias and I saw the President and urged him to use all of his authority to stop it. FDR instructed General George C. Marshall, then Chief of Staff, that there was to be no segregation in the Army's rehabilitation program, and there was none.

Later, at the request of General Marshall, I visited one of the Army rehabilitation centers in Atlantic City and saw white and Negro GI's billeted together at the same hotels, and getting along wonderfully. I asked one Negro GI how he was getting along. "Everything's just wonderful," he told me.

"You can thank your President," I whispered.

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In her modest Washington office, Mary Bethune carries on activities in half a dozen causes although she works almost full-time as president of the National Council of Negro Women. She is president-emeritus of Bethune-Cookman College.

## MY SECRET TALKS Continued

When President Roosevelt died suddenly in the little white cottage at the top of Pine Mountain at Warm Springs on the afternoon of April 12, I was in Dallas, Texas. I had gone there to make a speech at Samuel Houston College. Because of the poor state of my health, Dr. James Lowell Hall, my physician, accompanied me on the trip.

It had been a trying day, and I was sitting in the living room of the home of a Dallas friend. Suddenly Dr. Hall burst into the room, his face full of grief. He was visibly agitated.

"I don't want you to excite yourself," he said, "but I have very bad news for you . . . the worst possible news."

"What is it?" I asked fearfully.

"It has just come over the radio that President Roosevelt has died."

I sat, stunned, for ten minutes, saying nothing to anybody. It was hard to realize that he was gone. When the awful reality of the tragedy came home to me, I collected myself and sent a wire to Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House. I told her how I felt at the terrible news and that I was coming to Washington.

I had some difficulty getting a plane back to Washington. All of the planes were booked to capacity. Finally, following the personal intervention of the State Democratic Chairman we were able to get two plane reservations for Dr. Hall and myself. It was a long, sad flight. We arrived in Washington at 9 the following morning. I was immediately informed that arrangements had been made for me to participate in a national radio broadcast consisting of messages from leaders and spokesmen of all walks of life. I was asked to speak for the Negro people.

After the broadcast, I got in touch with the White House and learned that the body of the President was arriving the following day. With a heavy heart I went over to Constitution Avenue early the next day and saw my favorite President return from his last trip. I attended the funeral services held in the East Room of the White House on April 14th and found it impossible to restrain my feelings. I wept openly like a little child. I looked at the flag-draped bier and my mind went back to the time when we first met, and I had moved him to tears by my impassioned plea for my people's rights. I recalled holding his hands and looking into his fine, strong face, and telling him how much the common people depended on him. I remembered all this and many other wonderful little things that he had done for me and for my people.

As I left the East Room I was conscious only of a vast sense of loss that pervaded the democratic world. On that day I felt that something big and fine and brave had dropped out of the world, that we had lost our greatest leader. There were sobs and tears in the East Room that day and all over the world. I felt like I had lost a dear, close relative. And indeed, I had.



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Three of dozen words he can spell are pointed out on blackboard by Mickey Croques. He can identify most makes of cars, knows capitals of 18 countries. He knew the Pledge of Allegiance at 25 months.

Mother and grandfather have helped Mickey pick up much of his knowledge, like formulas for salt, water and magnesium. Here he points out water symbols to mother (left). Grandfather reads regularly for him.



# KID GENIUS

Chubby California 3-year-old shows amazing memory as star of Whiz Quiz radio program

AT THE AGE when most kiddies are spending their time playing with blocks and "pull" toys, a three-year-old, chubby California Negro youngster busies himself by dabbling in "head" work which runs the mental scale from figuring square roots to solving chemical formulas. He's tiny Michael James Croques (pronounced Kro-Kay), Oakland kid genius who recently starred as the youngest and smartest small fry ever to appear on the nationwide ABC Whiz Quiz radio program.

Doing the astounding is nothing new for the cherubic colored kid whose father is a real estate broker and mother a schoolteacher. Mickey started creating mild sensations as far back as his sixth day when a nurse was giving him an oil bath. Lying on his stomach then, the brown baby was having trouble breathing and started turning his head from one side to the other to gain breath. His grandmother, Margaret Allen, saw the movement and shouted, "I've never seen anything like it."

Growing up, Mickey piled up one amazing feat after the other. At four months his mother was showing the lad a passing train while holding him at a window. The boy wonder heard the engine's sound, then mimicked, "Choo, Choo!" His mother was so surprised that she almost dropped him.

The youngster completed his first sentence at 10 months when he mumbled, "I go to market in car." He could walk at nine months and was able to hold an interesting conversation with grownups many weeks before he was a year old.

When Mickey was about eleven months old, he had mastered a count up to ten by two's. His knack for working with numbers developed fast and before long the baby brain was digging up answers to square root and chemistry problems.

Because Mickey is highly versatile, many California child psychologists believe that the boy will make good in any field he chooses for a life profession. His mother thinks he might excel in mathematics. But when Mickey is asked what he wants to be when grown up, he always replies, "I want to be a doctor."

Most of Mickey's "idle" hours are spent rambling through books. By the time he was 15 months old, the tot had worn out three ABC primers. He now keeps his aunt busy bringing home books for him from Oakland Public Library where she works.

Only books Mickey likes are those which have stories beginning with, "Once upon a time." When he's at a book, the youngster usually sits on the floor and digs through page after page in search for pictures or words he knows by sight.



**On Whiz Quiz program** Mickey replied correctly to all questions by volunteers in audience. He spoke line of French, gave capitals of France and Turkey, knew formula for salt and supplied square root of numbers as high as 144.



**Alphabetical blocks** are Mickey's favorite toy since he can spell out words with them. He likes to bang away at piano, has a good ear for music, being able to distinguish between boogie woogie and classical music.



**Playing with neighborhood kids**, Mickey comforts little Janet Sherman who insists on getting first ride in the wagon. Most kids Mickey plays with are older than he. Like other youngsters his favorites are ice cream and all kinds of candy.

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# TIME TO STOP BEGGING

**I**N THIS DAY of confiscatory income taxes, all-powerful labor unions and fast-spending heiresses, dusk seems to be approaching for the American age of philanthropy. The era of the Carnegies, Rosenwalds and Rockefellers with their fabulous fortunes seems to be passing. New millionaires are still stepping up in the business world but the Collector of Internal Revenue with his zooming tax rates is making certain that America never again will see vast wealth accumulated by any one man. Strong AFL and CIO unions have helped to guarantee the end of highly-profitable labor exploitation by would-be plutocrats and what riches are banked seem to be well taken care of by well-heeled young ladies like Babs Hutton and Doris Duke.

With affluence definitely on the downgrade, the demise of the bountiful benevolence which once was the cornerstone of the foremost Negro institutions in America seems certain. With the Rosenwald millions now all spent, the primary source of financial support for many colored schools and hospitals has dried up. Both the Carnegie and Rockefeller enterprises, which have already dispensed in excess of half a billion dollars to white and Negro projects, have been increasingly frugal in their handouts to colored folk in recent years.

## The Evils Of Philanthropy

**S**OME FLUSH and fiftyish Negroes, who have been thriving for years on lush benefactions, are currently wringing their hands in grief at the evident break in the philanthropic pipeline. Long dependent on charitable gratuities for their virtual existence, they have never learned that there are other ways, much more gratifying and dignified, to finance worthy educational and health institutions.

For philanthropy is not entirely without its evils and disadvantages. Rarely is money given without strings attached and too often in the case of colored institutions the strings attached by white foundations have meant anything from implied to outright control of policy. If Southern Negro college educators have almost always been counted among the most staunch racial conservatives, it was not without reason. Their "go-slow" speeches and sometimes open advocacy of Dixie racial segregation can be understood more easily against a background of endowments from men of means who stand by the racial status quo. Tuskegee's Booker T. Washington set this pattern and others have followed suit.

## A Premium On Mediocrity

**I**N SOME CASES benevolence has dictated discriminatory methods of choosing personnel as well as putting a premium on mediocrity. For years such ranking institutions as Fisk and Hampton have had to choose their presidents on the basis of race rather than competence. Fisk finally broke the lily-white precedent when it installed its most obvious choice, scholarly and skilled Charles S. Johnson, who stands far and above some of the white incompetents who previously administered the university. But Hampton still clings to the "white-only" policy of choosing its presidents although there are a half dozen available Negro educators far better qualified to head the institute than most of its executives of recent years.

Alumni of the Meharry Medical College have long been embarrassed by the virtually-open racial prejudice of its president, Dr. M. Don Clawson. He topped his penchant for biased remarks as well as actions by his recent insistence that Negro applicants for medical education would "fail to make the grade" if thrown into competition with white students. Meharry has never had a Negro president.

Fisk, Hampton and Meharry have all operated for years with the dispensation of white trustees whose purses have been contributed along with their opinions on racial matters.

Much as the magnanimity of these white good samaritans with

shekels is appreciated for their contributions to Negro education, it is appropriate that their almsgiving is diminishing. It may mean some rough scrounging for funds by most institutions. It may even mean the end of some of the less stable Dixie schools. But those that do survive the financial strain will be worth saving because for the first time in their history they will be genuinely free and independent.

## Where Is The Money Coming From?

**W**HERE are these institutions once dependent on philanthropy to find money to exist?

Basically from the Negro people themselves.

There was a time when Negro America had to go begging for funds to educate its youth, to improve its health, to fight its racial battles. But that time is not now. No longer is the Negro the patched-pants ne'er-do-well of post-Civil War days, turned out penniless and ignorant to try and find his destiny in a heartless America that wanted to forget his existence. Today the Negro with talent, initiative and intelligence has made his mark on America in every field and has won genuine recognition for his accomplishments.

Today's Negro income tops the ten billion dollar mark and there are at least a dozen colored Americans who rate as millionaires. The Negro of today has attained a racial pride, dignity and militance that places him among the most-aware, most-alert fighters for democracy in all the world.

Certainly it ill becomes him to be satisfied with handouts when he has the wherewithal to be unbound and independent.

## Sitting On Their Riches

**P**ROOF that the Negro can begin to finance his own public service institutions with aid from well-to-do whites can be seen in the continuing success of the United Negro College Fund which last year raised more than one million dollars for its 32 college-members. In New York the interracial Sydenham Hospital has been successfully meeting its budget through fund campaigns that have netted over \$500,000. The annual NAACP drives have depended in the main on the man in the street and have kept that fighting organization in the black. The common folk have shown an amazing financial strength when passing the plate.

All of these important financial drives have been interracial since good causes know no color line. The number of liberal-minded white Americans, who can be depended upon to support both morally and financially the efforts of Negroes to achieve justice and equality in America, is growing each year. They can be found in all brackets and their good will as well as their money should be warmly welcomed . . . but only up to the point where they try to intrude and attempt to dominate policy in an undemocratic manner.

Unfortunately as yet there are still too many monied Negroes who have profited royally from fellow colored folk in varied enterprises such as undertaking, policy, medicine, kitchenettes and the like and who still zealously sit on their fortunes instead of plowing it back into the welfare of their people. These gentlemen have yet to learn that they can continue to rise only as their people go upward. Self-interest would dictate their continuing contributions to worthy racial causes but many seem too near-sighted and greedy to see this.

They have yet to learn that when any Negro goes begging, he is not only degrading himself but his whole race. The sooner Negro Americans can stand financially on their own feet taking care of their own, the sooner will the day of true equality for all Negroes—rich as well as poor—be a reality.





Dining under palms by water's edge on Port au Prince bay, "Miss Haiti of 1948," steno Paulette Guichard, and UN economic advisor William H. Dean of New York drink toast to friendship of Haitian and U. S. Negroes. After \$1.25 lobster dinner at Mario's, they enjoy swim and rum punch at nearby Thorland Country Club pool (below).

## HAITI HOLIDAY

### Black republic enjoying its biggest tourist boom

FOR YEARS the paradise of Haiti has been troubled. Richer in scenic sunsets, exciting history and untouched primitive peoples than any American country, the little "Pearl of the Antilles" has always been poor in dollars. Its search for some crop or industry to balance its too-meager exports against its heavy U. S. imports of cloth, machinery and wheat has been in vain. But finally the only Negro republic in the Western Hemisphere is beginning to see a pot of gold at the end of the glorious rainbows that circle its towering mountains.

Haiti has discovered the American tourist . . . and vice versa.

Out of the joint discovery is coming Haiti's newest and fastest-booming business—tourism. Seeing in the growing flow of visitors through the Pan-American airfield and the Port au Prince docks a potential bonanza that could clean up Haiti's longtime budget woes, New Dealish President Dumaris Estime has ordered an all-out drive to woo the would-be American traveller. Although dismaying to some veteran U. S. escapers who feel that too many tourists will put an end to the paradise that is Haiti, the campaign is already attracting record numbers of visitors.

By December the tourist push reaches high gear with the scheduled opening of a \$5,000,000 Exposition in Port au Prince. Despite moans from old-time residents that Haiti will never be the same, the lush green country is still the land of \$1 filet mignon, the world's finest rum (\$1.25 a fifth) and breath-taking scenic wonders. To see how the average tourist fares, EBONY photographer Gordon Parks accompanied UN visitor William H. Dean on a typical tour with "Miss Haiti of 1948" and found Haiti still a West Indies wonderland as his pictures demonstrate.





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**Back at Thorland swimming pool**, favorite haunt of Dean in hot Haitian weather, "Miss Haiti" is convinced to take a dip though she's wary of the water. Harvard Ph.D. Dean is son-in-law of Phelps-Stokes Fund head Channing Tobias.



**Relaxing after swim**, "Miss Haiti" and Dean chat in mixture of French and English. Elegant Thorland club run by Americans has social center with bar. Interracial membership pays \$50 yearly, can bring guests freely to club.



**Water polo** is played by "Miss Haiti" from side of pool. Boat for deep-sea fishing can be rented in Port au Prince. Best ocean beaches are located some distance from capital at Cap Haitian and Jacmel.



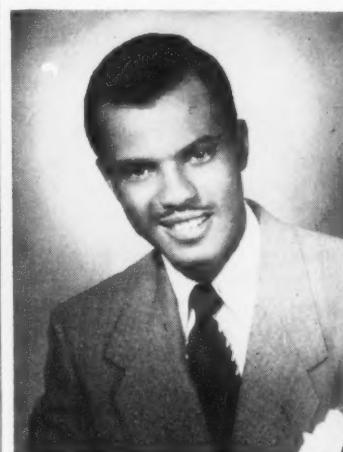
**At pool bar**, couple is refreshed by native soda-pop. Dean was secretary of UN mission to study Haiti and advise government on economic and technical reforms. Country recently got \$4,000,000 loan from U. S. for dam project.



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## HAITI IS STILL UNTAINTED BY SPLURGING OF U. S. VISITORS

**B**IGGEST tourist attraction in Haiti is its lack of tourists. Untainted as yet by the inflationary splurging of U. S. visitors, the Haitians offer the most luxurious of accommodations at unbelievable prices. Its warm, simple, friendly people live as they have for decades without regard for the coming and going of foreigners. Only concession to tourism has been the recent order for peasants to wear shoes when coming into Port au Prince. But there is no sham front to impress Americans. Haitian customs (better known as *protocol* in Port au Prince), such as chaperones for girls going to dances and a required suit jacket for even the movies, remain intact. For while Haiti welcomes the tourist trade, it still zealously retains its pride and dignity not only in its country but also in its racial antecedents. Color discrimination is outlawed and even U. S. Southerners find it expedient to obey the law.



Club owners are Italian A. Marini and his Haitian wife. Interracial marriages are numerous among upper classes in Haiti. Many Southern whites working in country have native Negro girl friends.

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Pushing Haiti's tourist campaign is President Dumaris Estime (left), who recently named poet Jean F. Briere, Columbia University ex-student, to head tourist bureau. Big new building for tourist bureau is planned.



Plans for coming Haitian Exposition are explained by commissioner Jean Fouchard (center) and architect Robert Baussan (right) to Aansgar Rosenbogg, Swedish head of UN mission. Baussan is building big new 100-room hotel.

## PRESIDENT ESTIME SPARKS DRIVE TO LURE TOURISTS

NAVADED and occupied by U. S. Marines for 16 years, Haiti has never lost any love for Americans. But if U. S. tourists can bring the little country out of its financial doldrums and give the land of Toussaint a big push along the road to modern development, Haiti is willing to forget past trespasses. To accommodate the brisk tourist trade, the Haitians have been building hotels like mad but because of a late start has a long way to go to catch up to other West Indies tourist-catching islands like Cuba, Jamaica and Trinidad. Two new hotels totaling 150 rooms are expected to be open by Exposition time.

Sparking the big tourist campaign is President Estime, who has named one of his closest aides, handsome poet Jean F. Briere, to head the department of tourism recently organized to lure Americans to Haiti. Estime, of whom Haitians fondly sing, "C'est bon papa," is making amazing strides not only in attracting dollar-spending visitors but also in bringing prosperity to the nation. Since taking office two years ago the 48-year-old ex-teacher has cleaned up Haiti's debt to the U. S., built the model city of Belladere back in the mountains and pushed native industry like sisal to new peak levels. While some grouch about taxes, most Haitians have a regard for Estime that few presidents since Petion have enjoyed.

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Prize winner Mrs. Helen Robinson displays meringue pie that won \$312 gas range. She scored 93 out of a possible 100 points in judges' tabulations in Cleveland News food show baking contest. More than 1,000 home bakers were in contest.

## LEMON MERINGUE PIE

By Freda DeKnight

**C**OOKING contests are a great American institution that draw excited contestants to country fairs, food conventions and big city expositions. Displaying their kitchen versatility frequently in these culinary shows are top-notch Negro cooks whose skill and talent with recipes is well nigh a racial tradition. Recent first prize winner of an important contest was Cleveland's newly-married Mrs. Helen Robinson.

The Chattanooga-born housewife walked off with top baking honors in the Cleveland News food show with a tasty, tender lemon meringue pie, which she learned how to bake in vocational school home economics courses. Entering the contest only at the urging of her husband, a state highway employee, Mrs. Robinson had little faith in her ability to win since lemon meringue pies are among the most difficult to bake. Her husband, however, rejoiced at her triumph with "I just knew she would win. She's the world's best baker."

Aside from the custard and meringue in her pie, the crust was also a key to her prize winner. Her recipe is as follows: Sift together 1½ cups flour and 1 tsp. salt. Cut ½ cup shortening into flour. Work until whole resembles coarse meal. Add 3 tbsps. cold water to make stiff dough. Roll dough on floured board to fit pie plate. Prick dough with fork to prevent bubbling. Bake 15 minutes at 450 degrees.



In top of double boiler add 6 tbsps. cornstarch, 1 cup sugar, ½ tsp. salt, 2 cups water and stir over low heat until smooth. Cook over boiling water 10 minutes.



Beat 3 egg yolks and add to the mixture in double boiler. Cook and stir the custard for 3 minutes longer over boiling water. Remove from heat.



Add 3 tbsps. butter and ½ cup lemon juice to mixture. Prize winner Mrs. Robinson reads cook books like novels, always experiments with new recipes.



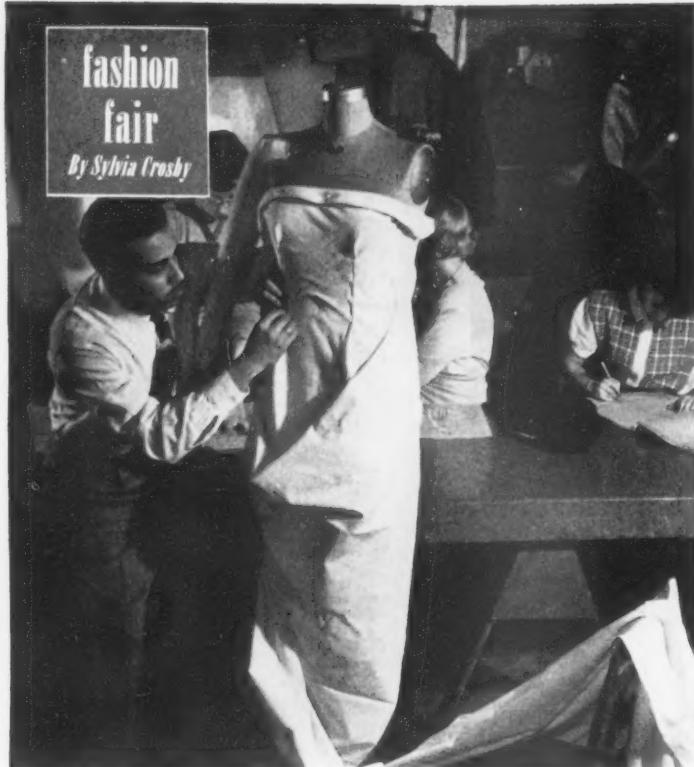
Grate rind from lemon and add 2 tbsps. to custard mixture. Mrs. Robinson first wanted to enter apple pie but husband urged her to submit meringue.



Cool and pour custard into previously baked pie shell (see text for pie shell recipe). Cleveland News contest was first Mrs. Robinson ever entered.



Cover with meringue, made from 3 whipped egg whites and ½ tsp. cream of tartar beaten with 6 tbsps. sugar ½ tsp. vanilla. Bake in 300° oven 20 minutes.



**Draping with muslin** on size 14 dummy, dress design student Robert Wood works out details of an evening gown preparatory to drafting pattern. Wood once planned to become a doctor, changed his mind after service in Army Medical Corps. Wood believes: "A woman should dress so she's always noticed in a crowd—but never stared at."



**Green herringbone tweed jacket** with rust and green plaid skirt of imported English woolen were combined by student Avadner McClory to make casual daytime costume which she models herself. Darts give skirt puffed, barrel silhouette.



**Formal gown** of wine-colored slipper satin, made by Mozelle Jackson for student show, has two fan-shaped godets of nylon net in five shades of purple from deep violet to lilac. Godets give shimmering rainbow effect to dress which Mozelle models herself.

# SCHOOL FOR DRESS DESIGN

**I**N THE WORLD of fashion, the top aristocrats are clothes designers. No more than a handful ever attain top rank but thousands strive to hit the heights. For dress design is a glamourous, creative profession with fabulous rewards for those who hit the jackpot. In dozens of U. S. schools of dress design would-be creators of tomorrow's styles are studying today to win fashion fame. Among the ambitious are many gifted Negroes, including males.

To the layman a male who wants to become a dress designer is a pretty unique specimen but the registrar of Chicago's Art Institute didn't bat an eyelash when husky, handsome ex-GI Robert Wood enrolled for the dress design course at the school a year and a half ago. Many an artistically-inclined young man has decided that fashion is more profitable than still life. Wood is not the only man in his classes. Nor is he the only Negro.

For the Art Institute welcomes Negroes and finds that the greatest number in the school take the dress design course. Department head Cornelia Steckl has found: "With few exceptions our Negro students are outstanding. Maybe they feel that they will have to be better than white persons in order to get jobs as designers."



**Sports dress** in gray and mustard novelty weave worsted is one of Mozelle Jackson's favorite creations, won high praise from department head. Dress has zip-front jerkin of mustard-colored wool, beautiful geometric detail and princess lines.

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Prize-winning evening gown, which took highest honors in Art Institute's student style show, is modelled by designer Avadner McClory. Made of white satin brocade embroidered with silver threads, gown has detachable glove sleeves and bustle back. Most students enjoy designing evening gowns, feel it is best for creative work.



Summer dance dress, another prize winner by Avadner McClory, was inspired by length of waffle weave pique with black and white flower print. Off-shoulder neckline has applique of flowers, skirt has cartridge pleats encircling hipline. Most woman students do own modelling in style shows; men use feminine classmates or friends to show their creations.

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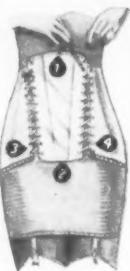
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